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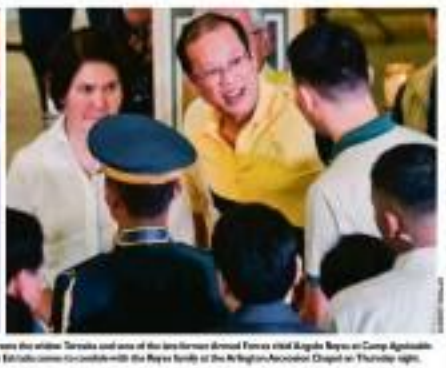
Mubarak leaves Cairo; protesters at palace gate

Handsome poor no match to ugly rich

GMA son dares Trillanes

P-Noy genial, Estrada forgiving at Reyes' wake

By Cynthia D. Balana



PINOY JAG SNAP President Aquino greets the widow Teresita and sons of the late former Armed Forces chief Angelo Reyes in Camp Aguinaldo on Friday. At left, former President Joseph Estrada comes to condole with the Reyes family at the Arlington Memorial Chapel on Thursday night.

Back up suspicions with proof, says Mikey

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
in Manila
and Jay Gainza
in Batabat City

Corruption killed Reyes, say ex-Cabinet men

Gun used in killing car dealer found

By Nestor C. Corrales,
John M. Aurelio and Alcuin Papa

PH's darlings Azkals offered new homes

By Mike Navalat
and Cedrik P. Tapao in Manila
and Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

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Mosley tells bettors: Make money with me

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Stars was romantic about loving and losing

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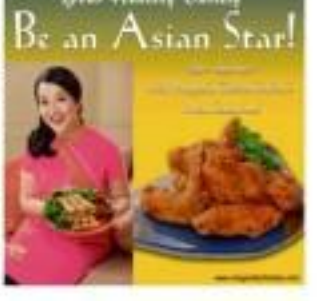
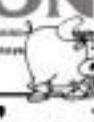


Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST



De Lima defends deportations

Tells China, Taiwan to resolve issue between themselves

By Marlon Ramos and DJ Yap

Deal with it between yourselves; leave Manila out of it.

Instead of dragging the Philippines into the fray, Chinese and Taiwanese officials would do better to resolve among themselves the smuggling case 14 alleged Taiwanese swindlers caught in the Philippines and deported to Beijing, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said yesterday.

De Lima defended the government's decision to send the seven of Taiwanese to mainland China where they faced several charges for credit card fraud.

"What we did was right. First of all, the People's Republic of China declared interests for their arrest and made a request for the Taiwanese to be deported to Beijing," De Lima told reporters. She dismissed that the Taiwanese suspects were also included in the "red notice list" of the Interpol.

De Lima also insisted that China and Taiwan could resolve the issue between themselves, noting that the case had sparked an improvement regarding custody of their arrested citizens.

De Lima said the deal was called the "Cross-Strait Agreement," forged in 2009 between China and Taiwan to ensure improved cooperation in fighting criminal syndicates and ensuring mutual judicial assistance.

The [agreement]... was made precisely for them to talk about the custody, treatment and prosecution of their nationals. The Philippines was not part of this," De Lima said.

"They should settle it between themselves," she said.

De Lima said the decision to send the Taiwanese to mainland China was intended to expedite the prosecution of the cases against the suspects, since their alleged victims were mostly China nationalities.

"Here, we cannot ensure the successful prosecution of the case. Aside just let them be prosecuted there and for it's the Chinese officials[] on power that they construed a crime as members of a syndicate," she said.

De Lima expressed confidence that Taiwan's threat to expel Philippine workers from the island could be "mitigated" through the help of "diplomatic channels" and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, the country's de facto embassy in Taiwan.

Taiwan's de facto ambassador to the Philippines left the country on yesterday morning after being recalled by his government following the deportation controversy which plunged Manila and Taipei into diplomatic tensions.

Donald C. T. Lee, head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, flew aboard China Airlines flight CI 702 bound for Taiwan at 10:40 a.m.

Lee declined to entertain questions by the media at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before his departure.

Lee earlier assailed the Philippines' government for deporting the 14 Taiwanese to Beijing despite protests from Taiwan, which said it had informed Philippine authorities about the suspects' nationality beforehand.

He said the move greatly hampered relations with the Philippines, and warned Taiwanese authorities could retaliate against the 86,000 Filipino workers on the island.

Malacañang earlier said it would be sending an emissary to Taiwan to explain the Philippines' actions, although a Malacañang spokesperson said the government would not apologize for handing over the Taiwanese to the Chinese.

P-Noy gets drenched with soldiers in Jolo

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT AQUINO met with soldiers in Jolo and opted to get drenched with them when heavy rain fell in the course of their meeting in Camp Teodulfo Bautista.

A report reaching Malacañang said Mr. Aquino announced a housing program for soldiers and told soldiers of an executive order he signed towards the end of last year increasing the member pay to P5,000 a month.

Prior to his meeting with the soldiers, Mr. Aquino inspected the extent of damages to Jolo after rains caused widespread flooding a few days ago.

He also led the distribution of relief goods and met with local government officials to discuss what needs to be done to bring life back to normal.

President Aquino thanked the soldiers for being the first to respond to crimes of national disorder despite inadequate equipment.

"By end of this year, we will be delivering 26,000 boots and vow to the soldiers and policemen and soldiers three to four years, we will finish all 120,000 boots and buy for the soldiers and policemen of the country," he said.

He Aquino said the boots and has would run P150,000 per unit. Each will have a floor area of 21 square meters while the has, 30 square meters.

Moro rebs cut territorial claims

By Norman Bordadora

LEONEN

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front is now seeking a territory that is only seven to nine percent of its historical claims, the chair of the government panel negotiating with the MILF said yesterday.

Marvic Leonen, dean of the UP College of Law and chair of the government panel in the talks with the MILF, indicated that the MILF's starting position in the peace negotiations gives the government room to be optimistic.

Saying the MILF's starting position could have been much more difficult, Leonen said it would be reasonable to expect a peace agreement with the MILF to just a "peak."

"If you consider the possible other starting points that the MILF could have taken, it is easy to remain grounded optimism on the directions of the talks," Leonen said in a news briefing in Malacañang.

Leonen addressed Malacañang reporters straight from the airport after arriving from Kuala Lumpur where the formal peace negotiations resumed between the government and the MILF panels on Wednesday and Thursday.

The next round of talks is scheduled for March 29-30.

Reasonable period

"I still maintain our position that we can reach a reasonable period to come to a framework agreement on a politically negotiated settlement with the MILF," he added.

Leonen said that the MILF draft agreement seeks neither independence nor association from the Republic of the Philippines.

"It proposes the recognition of a Bangsamoro identity while maintaining Philippine citizenship. It defines a territory which is seven or nine percent only of their historical claims," Leonen said.

"The MILF seeks a win-win solution in a seventy-old conflict," he added.

Leonen wouldn't give an idea how the "seven or nine percent only of (the MILF's) historical claim" would compare to the present composition of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

"We will have to look at the maps," Leonen said.

He did say that the ARMM provinces form the core of the new territory proposed by the MILF.

Leonen also said there was a proposal on wealth sharing between the proposed territory and the national government.

While Leonen seems to be upbeat with the MILF's initial proposal, he made clear the draft remains subject to negotiations.

"We received the document but clearly emphasized that they treat it as expression of their position rather than a working draft for the rest of the negotiating meetings," Leonen said.

"Negotiations on dynamic and starting positions are one that starting positions. It helps define the limits of the zone of possible agreements," he added.

71 witnesses reject invite to HK probe

By Marlon Ramos

AT LEAST 71 personalities, among them the driver of the hijacked bus and the chief police negotiator, have declined the Hong Kong government's invitation to its investigation into the Aug. 23, 2010, hostage fiasco.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said only personnel of the Philippine National Police's Crime Laboratory had expressed interest in appearing as witnesses at the public hearing in Hong Kong.

Normally, only a handful of them have officially confirmed their participation, De Lima told reporters.

"Most of those invited declined because they had already testified in the course of the ERC (incident investigation and review committee) proceedings," she added.

She said the Office of the Chief Prosecutor on Wednesday sent a letter informing Hong Kong's coroner's office that a number of those invited to the hearing had turned down the request.

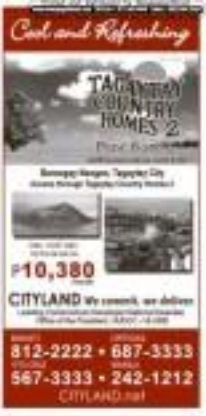
According to De Lima, officials of the Justice Department have yet to announce the rules and policies to be adopted in the scheduled probe of the case mastermind, would be similar to the ERC hearings.

She then stressed the importance of "safe conduct pass" to Filipinos who would take part in the Hong Kong inquiry.

"The safe conduct pass would ensure that they are not subjected to be arrested and prosecuted with anything they will say in the proceedings, except for perjury and contempt," De Lima said.

Eight Hong Kong residents were killed when police failed to rescue the tourists from the tourist bus which detained police officer Rolando Mendoza during a standoff.

The bloody incident exposed the then 3-month-old Aquino administration's international ineptitude.



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Confirmed gunman in Ortega killing pleads guilty

Broadcaster's kin say evidence enough to pin down ex-governor as 'brains'

By Redempto D. Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Modesto Diocadiro Noveras, a gun for hire from Pagbilao, Quezon, who has confessed to the shooting and killing of Palawan broadcaster Gerry Ortega on Jan. 24, pleaded guilty to a murder charge yesterday.

This developed as the family of the victim expressed confidence they have already gathered sufficient evidence to convict former Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes as the mastermind of the killing following the surrender on Thursday of the last of the three hit squad members.

Armando Niad Jorio surrendered to the Quezon police headquarters in Lucena City, Quezon province, after he was brought to Puerto Princesa City yesterday morning, guided by agents of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Palawan Investigative Security Agency.

Jorio, Noveras and Jessie Aseman, the group's leader, were charged with murder in connection with the killing of Ortega, who was shot dead in front of his home in Barangay Tiniguiban in this city on Jan. 24, 2011.

Noveras pleaded guilty to the murder charge before Judge Anthony Lim of Regional Trial Court Branch 52 in Puerto Princesa City.

Noveras, who was brought to court from the provincial jail in Iwahig, Puerto Princesa City, was represented by Public Attorney's Office lawyer Jose Jesus Ramos.

Lim then sentenced Noveras to reclusion perpetua, or 40 years in prison, without parole.

Noveras was arrested by elements of the Quezon provincial police office in Barangay Ibabang Dupay, Lucena City, on Feb. 3 at the house of his brother-in-law, Ricardo Ramos.

Noveras was brought to Puerto Princesa City on Feb. 4 and detained at the Palawan Provincial Jail in Iwahig.

Jorio's arrest took place in Barangay Ibabang Dupay, Lucena City, on Thursday. He was brought to Puerto Princesa City yesterday morning, guided by agents of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Palawan Investigative Security Agency.

3 was hit group

Lorio, known to the police as alias "Sanjuro Sulbakuno," was identified by Noveras as the commander of the three-man hit group that included Noveras as the trigger man and Jessie Aseman as the group's lookout.

"Justice is beginning to be served, with the inmate pleading guilty. We are hoping to get more suspects, more arrests and especially pin down the mastermind," Ortega family lawyer Joselito Khonghun said.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn meanwhile lifted Reyes for accusing him of launching a "well-funded" campaign to portray Reyes as the mastermind.

"Out of seven major individuals involved in this case, five are his people. How could he accuse me that? He is taking the people in Palawan for fools with his claim that all these are coincidences," he said. He is denouncing the issue and not responding in them directly," Hagedorn told the Inquirer yesterday.

Ex-governor's aides

Hagedorn pointed out that two suspects—Rodolfo Edad Jr. (alias Dumol) and Nonoy Magbalon—were both personal aides of Reyes and have provided direct statements pointing to the former governor as the mastermind.

"He is putting too much credit on me to date suggest that I have been able to manipulate all of these people loyal to him to turn against him. I don't even know Dumol or Nonoy, let two chance aides. He looks pathetic grasping at straws just to save his skin," Hagedorn said.

Hagedorn noted the statements already made by the suspects detailing how people who worked for Reyes and the provincial government actively participated in the operation to kill Ortega, including the transfer of money from Edad to the hit group which also included Noveras' cellphone number.

"I have one of office when Secretary Ebdane was the vice governor then," Hagedorn said.

"The law is clear there are very detailed evidence that point to Reyes as the mastermind. You can't manufacture false testimony involving all his closest security people," Hagedorn said.

Vice gov's gain

Hagedorn, in an earlier press statement, also slammed Reyes for insinuating that the threat had a hand in the death of Gov. Salvador Socrates, who died along with 12 other persons when an Air Force plane crashed into the Iloilo Sea off Palawan in 2008.

Hagedorn said it was Reyes, then the vice governor who benefited from the Socrates' death.

"I was out of office when Socrates died but Reyes was the vice governor then," Hagedorn said.

Hagedorn said Reyes was now resorting to rapid tactics and said the suspects in Ortega's killing surrendered "out of fear of Reyes' goons."

At the headquarters of the National Bureau of Investigation, running priest Fr. Robert Reyes and the former broadcaster's wife, Fatty Ortega, led supporters this morning prayer rally to show support for Reglado, who a day earlier executed a hold-hostage over releasing Edcel's earlier claims that pointed to Reyes as the fall-guy.

"I am calling on the executive] don't make us suffer. If you admit to your crime, there will likely be peace in Palawan, the rest of the country. Have an act of courage, admit to your crime," Fr. Reyes said in Filipino.

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RESIDENTIAL LOT

SB-342 MBP : P23,780,000
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P-Noy order limits GOCC execs' perks

By Norman Bordadora

CABINET MEMBERS and other government officials who sit on the boards of government firms will no longer be entitled to any additional compensation for their functions in the state corporations, President Aquino has ordered.

Executive Order No. 24, signed on Thursday by Mr. Aquino, also disallowed annual retainer fees and stock plans for all board members of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs).

The order also set the maximum per diems for each board member based on the volume of a firm's assets and the amount of its revenues. The order classified GOCCs and GFIs based on each one's assets and revenues.

Stop-gap

"This EO will serve as a stop-gap measure to rein in excessive pay for GOCC board of directors and trustees until a law is passed mandating such," Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. said.

Ochoa said one such measure is Senate Bill No. 2640 or the proposed GOCC Governance Act of 2011 that Sen. Franklin Drilon authored and is now pending in Congress.

The EO is the product of months of deliberations by the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance on how board members of state firms should be compensated.

Presidential Legislative Liaison Office executive officers suggested the bonuses of board members of GOCC/GFIs while the guidelines on their compensation, as now embodied in EO 24, was being crafted.

Under EO 24, appointive or elective board members may receive compensation as set forth herein unless specifically prohibited by law or the firm's charter.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

[illegible]

Luke 6:36-38

"Father's God called Adam saying to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'Heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' God said, '... How you were told not to eat?' The man answered, 'The woman you put with me gave me fruit from the tree and I ate it.' God said to the woman, 'What have you done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me and I ate.' Yahweh God said to the serpent, 'Since you have done this, ... You will crawl on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. I will make you enemies, you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. ...'

To the woman, God said, 'I will increase your suffering in childbearing, and you will give birth to your children in pain. ...To Adam, He said, 'Because you have listened to your wife, ... cursed be the soil because of you! In suffering you will provide food for yourself from it, all the days of your life. ... With sweat on your face you will eat your bread, until you return to clay, since it was from clay that you were taken, for you are dust and to dust you shall return.'

... Then Yahweh God said, 'Man has now become like one of us, making himself judge of good and evil; (so) that not stretch out his hand to take and eat from the Tree of Life, as well, and live forever,' So God sent him from the garden of Eden to till the soil from which he had been made. ...

Gospel Mk 8:1-10

'... Jesus called his disciples and said to them, 'I feel sorry for these people because they have been with me for three days and now have nothing to eat. If I send them to their homes hungry, they will faint on the way, some of them have come a long way.'

His disciples replied, 'Where in a deserted place like this could we get enough bread to feed these people?' He asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' And they answered, 'Seven.'

Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Taking the seven loaves and giving thanks, he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute. And they distributed them among the people. They also had some small fish, so Jesus said a blessing and asked that these be shared as well.

Reflection:

When was the last time you really felt hungry? If you are reading this now, it means that you have enough food in you so as to afford a book like this in your hand. You can even choose either to eat, or what not to eat, or not to eat at all. But look at the poor[illegible] and you will see that there is a hunger within us for something else. Look around you, and you see people reaching their end there, as if looking for something they cannot find, hungry for something more deep.

Comelec upholds Yap as Bohol solon

By Jeannie Aning

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) has denied the motion for reconsideration of a militant Tabon folk group over the dismissal of its petition questioning the legality of the bid Rep. Arthur Yap's bid to represent the province's third district in the 2010 elections.

In a unanimous decision dated Jan. 11, but made public only yesterday, the Comelec en banc said Chad Yap had met the residency requirements and was eligible to run for the Boholl constituency.

The Bohlanonong Lakas ng Bilanong Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Bahalapilipi) had filed a petition to disqualify Yap from running, saying he failed to live near the residency requirements. They claimed that Yap was not a resident of the third district of Bohol for a period of one year preceding the May 10, 2010 elections.

The Comelec's 2nd division dubbed Bahalapilipi's petition on May 13, 2010. The group filed a motion for reconsideration.

Bahalapilipi claimed that Yap failed to present solid evidence that he had abandoned his "domicile of origin" in Pasig and settled in Barangay Bonoservice, in Loboc, Bohol, for at least one year.

However, the Comelec noted that as early as 2007, "Yap was having the groundwork" for his transfer to the municipality.

"He started local governments officials and neighboring town officials so that regular visits to the place per suited him. His intention was made clearer when he finally purchased the house of his mother-in-law in Barangay, " it said.

The Comelec argued that although property ownership was not proof of domicile, the fact that Yap bought the property wherein he resides adds to his "freehold" on the municipality.

Yap's secondment to barangay assemblies in Bantayan as a member of the barangay was "indicative of his desire to integrate himself in the community." it said.

The Comelec also noted that Yap's contributions to the community were recognized when he was conferred the title of "adopted son of Loboc, Bohol" through Resolution 121 adopted on Oct. 26, 2005.

The poll body said the law does not state that to disinheriting his domicile, the candidate must divest all of his properties and recover attached to his previous domicile.

The Comelec ordered all further appeals in the House Electoral Tribunal since Yap has already been proclaimed, taken his oath as a congressman and assumed office.

Bahalapilipi spokesperson Jerry Oliver Gerpio said the group will study whether to appeal the decision. He said Bahalalipino would continue in pursue the corruption case it filed against Yap last year.

THE COLUMBIA GARDEN RESIDENCES

Country's darlings Azkals to get new homes

From page A1

Makati last week discussed plans to convert the city's sports field into the team's training center, Makati government information chief Paul Xiem told reporters.

But the field would need some upgrading.

"The feedback we received from the team was that the field was not very," Xiem said.

He said the center was damaged during the onslaught of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" two years ago. Floodwater flowed through the turn track and the pitch, destroying the grass and the field.

Rehabilitation costs

Pabuni has estimated that the local government would need about P4 million to rehabilitate the center's football field and restore the pitch's natural grass, Xiem said.

Converting the pitch into artificial grass would cost about P16 million, Xiem said of the Azkals manager at one.

Xiem said the Makatinos can not be a likely venue for tournament matches since its stands could only accommodate 11,000 people, against the international standard of 30,000.

Having the Azkals settle in Makatinos—also dubbed the country's shoe capital—is part of the local government's bid to attract investors, tourists and even new citizens, Xiem said.

Why Azkal?

The Azkals team derived its name from a play on the Filipino term for stray dogs (aspong kalye), or dogs without a home or without pedigree.

The name gained further currency with the increased popularity of the team following the inclusion of players of mixed Filipino and foreign parentage, including American, British, German and Spanish.

It was the late Bernardino who suggested the name "Azkal" for the team, stating it stands for someone who hosts all odds to win, Commanding Bloodlines.

Panaad stadium

In Bacolod City, plans are under way to expand the Panaad Sports Stadium seven-seven-double-bigger seconds.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said he would help the Negros Occidental provincial government get funds to expand the stadium, where the Azkals beat Mongolia via Wednesday in a qualifying tournament for the Asian Cup.

Zobel said that to increase the seating capacity to 40,000 from the current 20,000, bleacher seats would have to be increased and the track adjusted.

The provincial government's expansion plan would cost from P300 million to P350 million, he said.

Fund sources

Zobel said the funds could come from private companies, like Smart Telecommunications, which had expressed interest in entering into a partnership with the province. Other possible sources would be the national government and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (Fifa), he said.

Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon said he was told by former Sen. Jose Estanislao, Philippine Olympic Committee president, that the national government was willing to help expand the Panaad stadium and "make Negros Occidental the football capital of the Philippines."

Zobel's called on President Aquino to direct the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to allocate 5 percent of its gross income for sports development, instead of 1 percent of net income, as present.

Doing so would increase Pagcor's allocation for sports to P1 billion annually from about P600 million.

The Azkals' success has spurred support for the sport.

PBB-M assistance

Smart Telecommunications is extending an P80-million assistance—spread over 10 years—to the Philippine Football Federation (PFF), aside from the P1 million it gave the Azkals for making the semifinals of the Suzuki Cup.

Manila Bore also gave a P954,000 commitment to the Azkals and proposed a three-year deal to support the team, including staging a four-nation international tournament in Manila in October. An executive from has agreed to give courtesy to the team in case of injuries.

The football federation of Emirati Bahrain and Andalucian month released $100,000 to help the PFF as part of a five-year $500,000 grant.

The German football association also pledged support for Philippine football such as aid package covering coaching programs, technical assistance and grassroots development.

The PFF is also renewing its partnership with the Japan football Association also pledged support for Philippine football such as aid package covering coaching programs, technical assistance and grassroots development.

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PFF PRIDE. President Aquino poses with the victorious Philippine Azkals in Malacañang during the team's courtesy call on Thursday.

Handsome poor no match to ugly rich; more Pinoys believe love conquers

From page A1

20 SE survey released yesterday also showed that more Filipinos than ever believe that love and money conquers all.

Among Filipino men, 52 percent said they choose someone good-looking but poor, and 46 percent, someone rich but ugly.

On the other hand, more Filipino women are inclined to choose a life partner who is rich but ugly (57 percent) to someone who is good-looking but poor (41 percent).

The survey also showed that more than half of Filipinos, or 56 percent, are "very happy" with their love life, while 33 percent say it "could be happier." Those who profess to have "no love life" account for 11 percent.

1,200 respondents

The survey, conducted on Nov. 27-30, 2010, asked 1,200 adults nationwide: "If you want to choose one of the following traits/persons to be your lifetime partner, who would you pick: A person who is rich but ugly, or a person who is good-looking but poor?"

Among men, respondents of those 55 years old and above (52 percent), 45 to 54 years (54 percent), and 18 to 24 years or the youth (56 percent) each choose someone who is good-looking but poor rather than someone rich but ugly.

On the other hand, 53 percent of men aged 25 to 34 are more inclined to choose someone who is rich but ugly than someone good-looking but poor.

Middle-aged men, or those 35 to 44 years old, are divided: 50 percent will prefer someone rich but ugly, while 48 percent will choose someone who is good-looking but poor.

Among women, preference for a life partner who is rich but ugly is high across all age groups, the SWS noted.

The preference is highest among women who are 18 to 24 years old (71 percent). The percentage decreases as age increases: 67 percent among those 25 to 34 years old, 57 percent among those 35 to 44 years old, 51 percent among those 45 to 54 years old, and 50 percent among those 55 and above.

By region, class

By area, 63 percent in both Metro Manila and in Luzon outside Metro Manila will choose someone rich but ugly for a life partner, while 58 percent in Mindanao will choose someone good-looking but poor.

Those from the Visayas are divided, with 50 percent saying they prefer someone rich but ugly, and 48 percent, someone good-looking but poor.

By class, more than half of those from classes ABC (57 percent) and class D (52 percent) will prefer someone rich but ugly. About half or 51 percent of class E will choose someone good-looking but poor.

The respondents were also asked to describe their love life in the following terms: "no love life," "could be happier," or "very happy."

More Filipinos are happy with their love life in 2010 (56 percent) than when SWS last asked the question in 2004 (46 percent).

The question was first asked in 2002, with 58 percent professing happiness in their love life.

On the other hand, those who say their love life "could be happier" declined to 33 percent in 2010, from 44 percent in 2004. In 2002, 32 percent said their love life "could be happier."

The number of those who say they have "no love life" hardly changed at 11 percent.

Marriage a plus

Married people have a happier love life, with 64 percent saying they are "very happy" as compared to 40 percent among those with a live-in partner, and 33 percent among those single.

More than half of those with live in partners (55 percent) say their love life "could be happier" as compared to 36 percent among those married, and 21 percent among those single.

Curiously, more than four in 10 single-persons (43 percent) say they have "no love life." There are more single females (53 percent) than single males (38 percent) who say they have "no love life."

By age, only two of five (44 percent) of the youth (aged 18 to 24) are "very happy" with their love life, lowest compared than most of the other people who claim to be "very happy" with their love life. 63 percent among those 25 to 34, 60 percent among those 35 to 44, 62 percent among those 45 to 54 and 58 percent among those 55 and above.

Among the youth, one of four (25 percent) say they have no love life, higher than the old er age groups.

By area, about seven in 10 of those from Mindanao (71 percent) and Visayas (67 percent) say their love life is "very happy," as compared to 57 percent in Metro Manila and 40 percent in the balance of Luzon.

Nearly five in 10, or 48 percent, of those in the balance of Luzon say their love life "could be happier," as compared to 26 percent in Metro Manila, 23 percent in the Visayas and 21 percent in Mindanao.

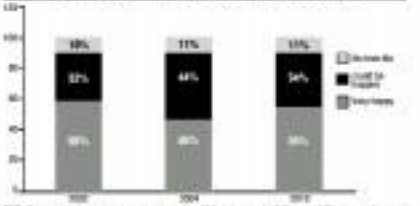
Nonconmissioned item

The survey used face-to-face interviews, and has an error margin of plus-minus 3 percentage points for national percentages.

The survey questions on happiness with love life and preference for lifetime partners are nonconmissioned items, the SWS said.

Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research

Personal Assessment of Love Life, 2002 to 2010



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KAUNLARAN NG TIRAHAN
PANGASIWAAN NG PAGLALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)

NOTICE

SUBJECT: ADJUSTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SERVICE FEES IN LRA TRANSACTIONS

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) hereby announces the adjustment of IT Service Fees stated below for transactions involving electronic registration of land titles and deeds, pursuant to Section 12.02 of the Build-Own-Operate Agreement between the Land Registration Authority and the Land Registration Systems, Inc., for the Information Technology Networks and Database Infrastructure Project of the LRA which states as follows:

"Section 12.02 Price Adjustment Procedure. x x x

The Fee Adjustment Procedure shall be as follows:

Effective the first anniversary following the effective date of this agreement and each succeeding anniversary thereafter during the term, the contract fee for each type of transaction rendered by the Service Contractor shall be automatically adjusted in accordance with the following price adjustment formula: x x x"

Service	Original Fee	Adjusted Fee
1. Issuance of True Copies of Subdivision Plan	P100.00	P143.75
2. Issuance of True Copies of Technical Description	P100.00	P143.75
3. Issuance of True Copies of Decree of Registration	P100.00	P143.75
4. Issuance of True Copies of Certificates of Title	P100.00	P143.75
5. Issuance of True Copies of Other Documents	P100.00	P143.75
6. Certification of Status of Plans / Lots	P100.00	P143.75
7. Issuance of Certificates of Title	P150.00	P215.16
8. Approval of Subdivision Plans	P150.00	P215.16
9. Query / Research	P150.00	P215.16
10. Registration of Deeds	P168.00	P244.00

**all fees indicated are exclusive of VAT*

Said adjustment was found consistent with the aforequoted Section 12.02 of the BOO Agreement and is in keeping with the intent of Republic Act No. 7718 or the Philippine Build-Operate-Transfer Law by NEDA. Likewise, it was favorably recommended by LRA's Project Management Executive Committee (PMEC) in its Resolution dated January 14, 2011.

The implementation, however, of the above-stated fee adjustment shall be effected upon the issuance of a Circular to this effect.

Cult leader-solon asks SC to quash warrant

By Marlon Ramos and Gil Cabacungan

ECLIG

CONTROVERSIAL cult leader Rep. Ruben Ecleo Jr. yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop authorities from implementing an order for his arrest after he was convicted for graft.

In an extremely urgent motion, Ecleo urged the magistrates to immediately issue a temporary restraining order (TRO), citing that he will feel very pending petitions before the high court.

Ecleo rose a congressional seat while he was out on bail for another case—allegedly killing his wife. A Cebu judge granted him bail in 2004 for "humanitarian reasons." He represented Dinagat Island, where he is "supreme master" of a religious cult.

The Sandiganbayan issued the new order for Ecleo's arrest with a fifth the high court upheld his conviction in connection with an anomalous infrastructure project in San Jose, Antique del Norte, where he was mayor from 1992 to 1994.

He was sentenced to 10 to 11 years in prison and was barred from holding public office.

In his motion, Ecleo said the assigned court's arrest order was premature. It would deprive him and his two concerned of their liberty "in derogation of their constitutional right to due process," he further argued.

Ecleo said he had a pending motion for reconsideration for one of two convictions, while another was seeking a reraffle of the case in the high court.

Aside from him, the arrest warrant also covered former municipal planning and development coordinator Anabella Navarra and Ricardo Sandillano, the private contractor of the anomalous projects.

Navarra and Sandillano were sentenced to 12 to 21 years imprisonment.

"In view of the issuance by the Sandiganbayan of the warrant of arrest...the petitioner has no plain, adequate or speedy remedy other than to pray of this honorable court that it now issue a temporary restraining order," Ecleo said in his seven-page petition.

The House of Representatives is currently weighing its options on the seat of Ecleo should the Dinagat Island representative go back to prison.

The Sandiganbayan explicitly stated that the conviction barred Ecleo from holding public office.

Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said that it was quite possible that Ecleo's district would be merged back with one of the districts in Surigao del Norte, noting that the creation of Dinagat Island as a congressional district was being questioned in court.

Dinagat is the basis of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), the cult founded by Ecleo's father, Ruben Jr.

Belmonte said there was no need for the House body to act on the expulsion of Ecleo. The House ethics committee, where expulsion cases originate, usually only crimes committed during their incumbency.

In Ecleo's case, all that is needed is for the House secretary general to get certified true copies of the Sandiganbayan convictions to serve as basis for his expulsion.

Corrections

IN THE FEB. 11 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Cops finally nab Senningen head"—misspelled the first name of one of the police men interviewed, Chief Insp. Bonjacob—not Benjacob—Mamelo.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front-page story—"Ex-Palawan gov denies charges as aide confesses"—misspelled the first name of the wife of slain entertainment/radio broadcaster Gerry Ortega. She is Ferry—not Feni—Ortega.

The same mistake appeared on the caption of the photo accompanying the story on Page A20.

In the Unit edition, the same photo caption misquoted Jhoy Ortega as saying: "I will not rest until I see handcuffs on Ortega." It should have been: "I will not rest until I see handcuffs on Reyes (not Ortega)."

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a story on Page A12—"Builder: Most powerful person behind Subaya"—misstated the first name of a former chief of staff who supposedly received larger sums of money according to Retired Commodore Rex Robles. He is Ray—not Frank—Climaco.

* * *

IN THE FEB. 7 ISSUE, a Learning story on Page G2—"A friend, ship forged in the battlefield"—misstated that former President Ramon Magsaysay became a senator. The late president did not hold that position.

* * *

Readers may send their request for correction of facts/names to us by e-mail at the Star desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer Pio Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Mandaluyong Boundary, Makati City, fax this No. 897-47-83-94; e-mail address: inq.desk@inquirer.com.ph.

Australian Government
AusAID

REQUEST FOR TENDER

AusAID, the Australian Agency for International Development, manages the Australian Government's official overseas aid program. AusAID assists developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia's national interest. AusAID is seeking a contractor to manage the administration of the following development program in the Philippines.

PHILIPPINES-AUSTRALIA PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Governments of Australia and the Philippines have agreed to embark on a long term partnership through the Public Financial Management Program (PFMP) to develop an efficient and effective public financial management system in the Philippines. The PFMP will support the Philippines Government's emerging reform agenda and facilitate improvements in the allocation, accountability and transparency of public funds to enable better service delivery. The PFMP is designed as a ten year program implemented in two five year phases. The first three years of the program (2011 to 2013) will be undertaken as part of a two year national extension period subject to a review of program performance. Phase II may be contracted out under a separate Tender. It is anticipated the program will commence in July 2011.

Tenders will be on a two stage basis. The closing date for submission of proposals is 2.00pm (Canberra time) on Tuesday 29 March 2011.

Tender documents are available on the AusAID tender website: https://www.tenders.gov.au/

All enquiries should be addressed to: Catherine Ross by email PFMP@ausaid.gov.au or facsimile +61 2 6206 4880.

GMA son dares Trillanes to widen probe

ONE LAST TIME Nine generals escort the casket bearing former AFP Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes as it was carried by the military honor guard into St. Ignatius Cathedral at Camp Aguinaldo.

Reyes suicide a noble act, says general

PILI, Camarines Sur—A ranking military officer here believes that the suicide of Angelo Reyes was a noble act intended to save the Armed Forces from further public humiliation.

Maj. Gen. Rogelio Pelayan, commander of the Army's 9th Infantry Division, told reporters in Camp Elias Angeles here that he saw Reyes' act as a supreme sacrifice for the image of the AFP.

"Aside from being saddened and shocked by [Reyes' death], me in the Army never were remain affected and demoralized. But I believe we should look at this in a different light," Pelayan said.

Supreme sacrifice

He agreed with an earlier observation that Reyes' tragic end was a form of the ritualistic suicide performed by Japanese samurais and soldiers whose honor and dignity had been tainted by humiliation.

Pelayan, who will retire from military service at the end of March, said his stance did not mean that he shared the view of many regarding Reyes' involvement in the purported corruption as the highest level of the AFP chain of command.

"I don't take his suicide as an admission of guilt. The public should stop judging the man because there are still investigations to be done," Pelayan said.

Pelayan also said he concurred to admire Reyes.

"He shot himself in the chest, in the heart, instead of in the head. This is an indication that he was aware of what he was doing. His aimed was clear. For me, it was an indication that he did it for honor, as a supreme sacrifice," Pelayan said. Shiena M. Zamora-Sindac, Inquirer Southern Luzon

From page A1

should air that at the Senate investigation which, for it be forgiven, is in aid of legislation."

Trillanes told reporters on Friday that it was "one for the books" that the corruption issue involving a military death fund could reach upto the level of Gloria Arroyo, near the representative of the second district of Pampanga.

He also said the Senate investigation would "go wherever this will lead us."

Asked to comment, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said that even if Trillanes said the Senate wanted to, they could not force the former President to testify as the Senate majority.

Mikey Arroyo also reminded Trillanes that "the great pastor of parliamentary immunity comes with parliamentary courtesy."

He added that the former leader of the 2003 Oakwood mutiny was just using the media as "a launch pad"—a reference to Trillanes' earlier declaration that he would run the country when he runs for reelection in 2013.

Trillanes' remarks on Friday were in connection with the earlier appeal of Angelo Reyes, the late co-chief of staff of the Armed Forces, for him to name the "powerful person" behind former military comptroller Carlos Garcia, who is facing a P303-million plunder case.

Garcia's controversial plea bargain with the Office of the Ombudsman—which allowed him to plead guilty to lesser offenses and to eventually be granted bail—is the main subject of the congressional inquiries.

The House of Representatives concluded its inquiry on Wednesday; the Senate resumes its own next week.

Pro and con

Members of the House acted cooling remarks on the issue.

Surigao Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. said Reyes' suicide "is not the answer to our problems."

Bataan Rep. Herminia Roman said the suicide "is not the way to solve our problems."

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III said Reyes'

Group urges Palace to certify gun control bills

By Aksahi Pupa

CIVIC AND religious groups led by three former senators and bishops are urging the President to certify as urgent a gun control bill to stem the rising incidence of crimes in the streets.

In a signed statement, the group calling itself Mga Tagataguk ng Kapayapaan (Peace Movers) called on President Aquino to consolidate two gun control bills pending in the House of Representatives and the Senate into one measure and certify it as urgent.

The group sent a letter through Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Ferdinand Golonia.

The group is referring to the Gilson Pimentel Act of 2010 filed in the House of Representatives and Senator Bill 1229 to regulate the carrying of firearms.

Camelec-style ban

Both bills have something in common: To make the Gamelec (Commission on Elections) gun ban in public permanent during elections and roll election protocols.

Anti-gun advocates and even the Philippine National Police (PNP) have pointed out that Camelec gun bans enforced by the police during elections have brought down crime.

"As a crime prevention measure, the acquisition bill will make the harmless act of carrying a gun by unauthorized persons in public places a criminal offense before such harmless act turns into a violent crime," the group said.

They also said that the possession to public places of firearms and deadly weapons "should be authorized only for those directly and primarily engaged in police, military or security services who are in uniform and on duty, and even then only to enforce the law under strict and clearly defined guidelines."

Signatories

The group argued that the consolidated gun control bill "will not in any way impair the privilege of responsible and qualified citizens to keep licensed firearms at home for protection or sport."

Leading the signatories of the letter are former Senators Ramon Magsaysay Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Wigberto Tañada. Members of the religious who signed the statement Archbishop of Manila Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, Cebu Archbishop Emeritus Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Nereo Odchimar.

Other signatories were Reynaldo "Sandy" Parbero, founder of the Gawad Kalinga Society, and Manolo Dayrit, chair of the Ang Kapatiran Party.

There are at least one million licensed firearms in the country with around half in the National Capital Region.

During the campaign period for the 2010 national elections, the PNP arrested some 5000 people for violating the gun ban.

Coco Palace now Binay's official home

By DJ Yap

THE COCONUT Palace, a government-owned guesthouse in the Cultural Center complex, was officially turned over to Vice President Jejomar Binay on Friday upon the signing of a lease contract with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

"Today, vice presidents will now have an official residence that goes hand in the second highest seat in the land," Binay said in his speech during a ceremony attended by GSIS President and General Manager Robert Vergara, among other officials.

"The Coconut Palace gives the Office of the Vice President (OVP) the dignity that has been lacking for the past years. And it does so at a much lower budget, securing savings for the taxpayers," he added.

Binay is expected to move into his new official residence in the first week of March once renovations are completed.

Saving money

He said the move will also save the government money. The OVP, which operates on an annual budget of about P200 million, is current by paying more than P800,000 in monthly office rentals at the Philippine National Bank Financial Center in Pasay City. Relocating to the Coconut Palace will cut its rental costs by half.

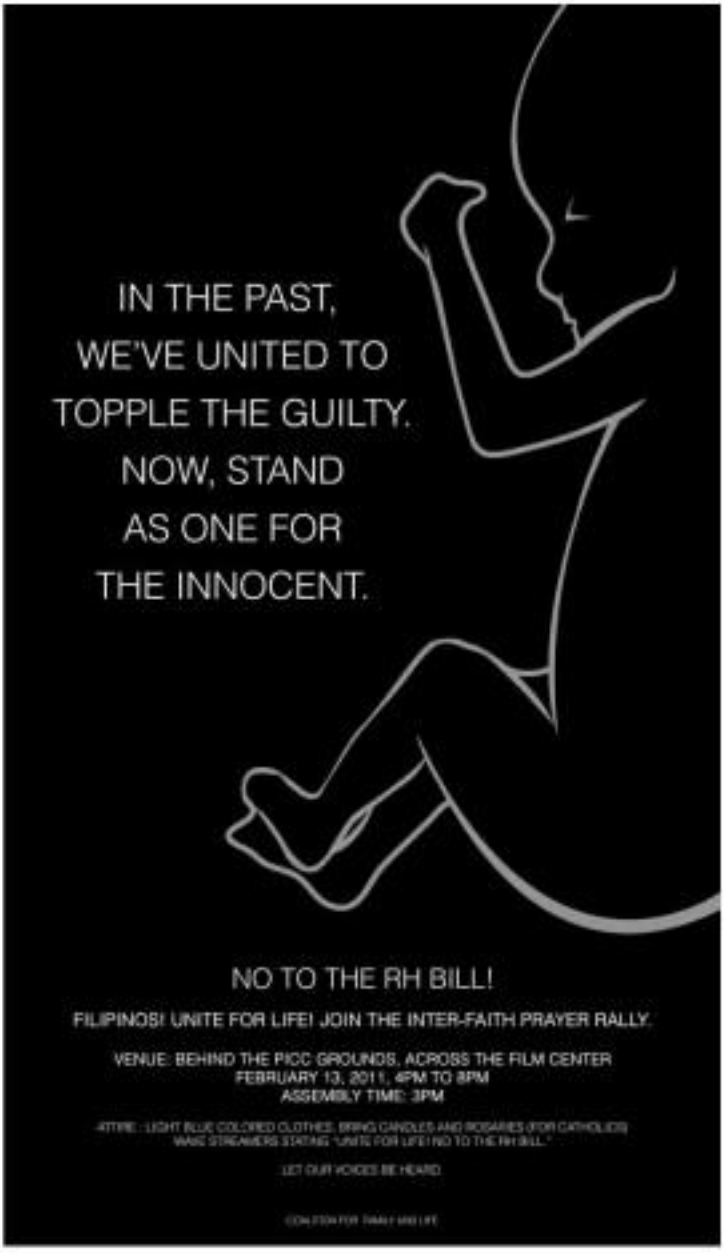
"We also intend to make history as the Coconut Palace by making the Office of the Vice President a more active participant in shaping government policy for the poor, and in helping our president fulfill his aspirations for the country," Binay said.

Binay thanked President Aquino for offering the Coconut Palace as the official residence of the Vice President.

The 32-year old Coconut Palace beside the Manila Bay was built in 1978 and designed by architects Francisco Mañosa using coconut lumber and other native materials.

It was commissioned by then First Lady Imelda Marcos for Pope John Paul II in 1981. The pope, however, declined the offer.

During the Marcos administration, the Palace was used to house high-profile guests of the government, like Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and US showbiz icon Brooke Shields and George Hamilton.



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LOVE OUT LOUD 3
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Feb. 12 • 1pm • Sky Dome

Romantic Classics featuring the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra
Feb. 13 • 1pm • Block Atrium

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Brazen lies

EDITORIAL

LIAR, LIAR, uniform on fire.

If for nothing else, given the helpless outrage you feel at the bald attempt to make a fool of you and your sound faculties, you're tempted to resort to schoolyard name-calling when confronted with the recent testimony—sworn testimony, let's be clear about that—of retired Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot before the Senate.

In the recent blue ribbon committee hearing looking into the massive corruption involving hundreds of millions of pesos of misused funds in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Ligot, the military comptroller when Gen. Angelo Reyes was AFP chief of staff, was confronted with records showing that his wife traveled to the United States 42 times, and bought two houses there, one of which she paid for in cold cash amounting to $183,868 in 2002.

The Ligots are said to own, in all, eight pieces of real estate in the US. On one trip, to San Francisco in 1999, Ligot's wife Erlinda traveled with Reyes' wife Teresita, and they were gone for three months. In the next five years, they would travel together 12 more times.

Think about it: Ligot is a retired three-star general. You couldn't rise to that rank without more than a modicum of brains. We must have distinguished himself in his long military career; else why the stars, the medals and the lofty honorifics? As comptroller, he held, for several years, one of the most influential positions in the AFP: guardian and disburser, no less, of its seemingly bottomless cash box.

You wouldn't know all that, however (you would think you were dealing with a forgetful old fool, except you know better) from hearing Ligot's answers to questions raised at the hearing about his wife's propensity to travel and shop for properties abroad. And, more importantly, where she got all that money to bankroll her lavish lifestyle.

Confronted with the number of times his wife was hopping in and out of airplanes for extended sojourns in the US, Ligot flatly denied knowing about the trips. He was completely in the dark—because his wife might have kept her trips "secret," he said. At one point Erlinda Ligot was gone from their home for three straight months, but to ah, the three-star general never noticed.

The houses? It was the first time he saw them, Ligot claimed. And when he asked his wife, in the wake of her brisque entry by the Sandiganbayan, how on earth they had ended up owning two expensive new houses in a country not known for giving away prime property just like that, especially to foreign visitors, he said he had to stop the questioning process because his wife became hysterical. And that was that—subject closed.

There are two conclusions to be drawn from this. One, Ligot must think his counterpart watching the proceedings on primetime TV are stupid enough to fall for such hogwash. Two, such is the reduction of the chastised life all that Ulith board must have afforded him and his family that Ligot is now willing to risk public ridicule—the loss of any semblance of logic, common sense and truth in what he says, among the basic qualities that would mark him as fit to wear his military uniform—if only to defend and hold on to that almighty kitty.

Here, in a larger sense, is the true tragedy of corruption: the way it transforms men of erstwhile intelligence and distinction into semi-morons of diminishing, unable to account for their deceitful actions except through transparently ludicrous lies and prevarications.

Ligot's nonsensical rejoinders deserve to be laughed out of the room. But the matter cannot end with pointless, inconsequential hilarity—because there is that other, more pressing, matter: the paltry cash he took before his tour ended.

The withering, incredulous reactions by his interrogators notwithstanding—"Sirots our pet dogs or cats, when they go astray, we look for them. What more if it's your wife missing," Sen. Jinggoy Estrada observed—Ligot was reminded not once during his appearance that he was speaking under oath, that everything he had to say carried the penalty of perjury should it prove to be untrue.

That he could proffer such unbelievable excuses for the questionable wealth of his family testifies to Ligot's confidence that none of his bald-faced falsehoods would get him in trouble. In this country, lying through one's teeth, even in the face of overwhelming evidence, is a no-brainer.

Well then, beginning with Ligot and his AFP cohorts, it's high time people like them were disabused of such easy thoughts.

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Sole nobility

VIEWPOINT

Beatriz E. Mercado

"MAGKAIBA KAYONG" (Or former state auditor Heidi Mendoza, whose work documented dramatic Pentex tax, plays around personal details her children, husband and partners, relatives, never, ev. "Useful but not enough," gripes Mendoza under Lozada Ligot of Bello. Lozada would provide added light on real issues, she adds. "Did you provide material perspective?"

Yes, we tried. "Bernard Gui" revealed stories under subpoena and then threatened jail retribution. Auditor Cecilia Muñoz Palma, banker Gaitan Ocampo and Magsaysay favorite Hardie Boat, there's an updated version.

Three cohorts filter late bulls. Two was the Ferdinand conspiracy panel as Palma, she first woman named as Supreme Court justice. Most of Palma's male colleagues were the dictator's lapdogs. They tolerated the lawless. 1971 "Cat, arm Assembly" and turned a blind eye on Ferdinand Marcos' manipulation of constitutional amendments.

See Palma. In January 1975, she wrote "A referendum under martial rule can be of no law for reaching significance as it is accomplished under an atmosphere or climate of fear."

Then way a senior writers the Chief Justice was led behind Imelda Marcos as person wants. "Under a martial law regime there is, understandably, repression of certain rights and freedoms, and any opinion expressed would not pass the test of a free and uninhibited expression of the will of the people," Palma continued.

Subservience led to surrender of even the 12th-century principles of courts to rule on habeas corpus pleas. Former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. planned to say in his several months in a gunman's bullet cut him off.

If Palma's unthinking extension against martial law were leveled, would History's murder have happened? One wonders.

In the House of Representatives probe, the all Mendoza exposed were her auditors' findings that a "New Bank's Tax massacre." Half of AFP's P1.8 billion Modernization Fund was splurged in the last three days of the year on office supplies. Silver soldiers hunted in stores, our hosts. AFP had a glut of computer ribbons that didn't fit printers.

Sole nobility

Hope for reform

GET REAL

Sylvia Golez-Montreal

THAT IS alone, from Gregorio Honasan to Antonio Trillanes IV, are responsible for all its attempts to overthrow the government, and now its attempts to destabilize it, is not true nor is refuted in the corruption at the military's highest levels, do not justify any of the coup—no doubt also made to gain much desired media attention—as clear down the Philippine military establishment. Those rules set up reflection set-ups for the closing down of the University of the Philippines because its alumni Lisa Maria Sison, among them) have been trying for decades to bring down the Philippine government, and have been successful to a point more involved

The lowering of the official poverty line

IS OF a week ago, the official time series of seasonal percentages of Filipino families in poverty were 40 in 1997, 36 in 2004, 33 in 2007, 26 in 2008, 29 in 2009, and 27 in 2006—steadily going down to 1997, 2002, then up in 2006.

The official background poverty statistician—the job of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB)—it runs in three years, making 2009 the most reference period. The year 1997 is the approximate year of the Millennium Development Goals' (MDG) period, which targets the halving (approximately by 2015, i.e., at 20 percent) by then.

This week, the official data on poverty changed. Last Tuesday Feb. 8, the NSCB announced that the 2009 incidence of poor families is 20.9 percent, based on a new (which is only "refined") methodology to also attempt to dust the old methodology would have put the incidence of poor families at 26.3 percent.

Thus the NSCB "information" resulted in us unsatisfying 26.3 – 20.9 = 5.4 percent of all families (or about 1.1 million families) who are no longer poor in 2009. The same basis lowering the average still, and 2009 poverty line for a family of five is P7,017 per month with the new system, from P7,913 per month with the old system. The difference (P896) amounts to a subsidized lowering of the official 2009 poverty line by 11.8 percent.

In the same time, the NSCB announced revisions of earlier years' official percentages of poor families as follows: 26.3 for 2003 (implicitly adjusting the MDG for 2015 down to 14 percent), 30.0% (2000), and 31.9% (1997). The 1997 figure is for the 1994-2000. In effect, it was saying that a bad economy was enjoyed poverty for two decades!

Thus the "refinement" resulted in reducing the official poverty percentages by 12 for 1997, by 4 for 2003, and by 5 for 2009. Those surrounded by very large numbers of families, and even larger numbers of people, unfamilied from poor into non-poor. The new poverty lines dropped by 11.8 percent in the case of 2009, and by 16.2 percent in the case of 2003, from the old poverty lines.

Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

Remember the new lines came about, I believe that the new lines of "poverty-bringing" of the official poverty line in terms of living standards. I am not swayed by the claim in the presentation of Dr. Lita Bautista, head of the small working group on estimation of food thresholds of the National Economic and Poverty Statistics, that "The definition of poverty did not change. The milestones are only meant to better measure the poor."

For a given year, as given consumer prices, the reduction of a money-denominated poverty line must be due to either reduction of quantities or other qualities of consumer items prescribed as the borderline living standard.

How did the NSCB discover now "least cost food bundles" than ever cheaper than the previous by prescribed bundles, yet equally nutritious? What are the new bundles? Were they available to the poor (transfer issue also)?

Incidentally, the NSCB has no counterpart research on least cost non-food bundles for the poor. Instead found to use of double rates of bottom non-food spending. In the new report, the food threshold is 50.5 percent of income, whereas, i.e., it is the 50-per-of food requires so-rare 49% for nonfood spending, does another P31, exactly will be allotted for non-food spending, regardless of changes in the cost of up-to-food items.

Official poverty statistics, but other new or old methodology the new NSCB report amounts to an official admission that poverty was flat over 2003-2009.

There is no escaping the symbolism that the substantial growth in 2003-2006 of real GDP per capita by 16 percent, and of real National Consumption Expenditure by 20 percent, had its effect on poverty (see my "Six years of unrelieved growth" column of Dec. 8, 2010).

Then when the country tends to an economic sector unrelated to helping the poor, not surely was that gone down.

Keeping up appearances, I wonder if the poverty line reduction is connected to a desire to improve the Philippine poverty ranking in the eyes.

I notice that the new NSCB report lists the following percentages of population (not families) in poverty—Lao PDR 33.5 (2003), Myanmar 32.0 (2005), Cambodia 30.1 (2007), Philippines 26.3 (2006), Vietnam 16.6 (2006), Indonesia 14.2 (2005), Thailand 8.5 (2004), and Malaysia 5.5 (2007)—showing three countries with worse poverty than the Philippines.

The new Philippine 2009 figure of 26.3 percent of people poor corresponds to 26.8 percent of families (here, I apply the latter's higher than the latter because the poor have relatively large families. However, with the old poverty lines, the NSCB's Philippine rate of people poor is 37.3 percent (not corresponding to 38.7 percent of families poor, and with a higher no-chance to beat.

No more officials' data. Until 20 147 my more disappointment with the NSCB over failure to develop a means of tracking poverty annually, if not more often. Under its current schedule, we now report on poverty is the only in February 2014. When that data will be released? Early 2015?

A government that seriously aims to reduce poverty cannot afford to wait so long between official poverty reports. I recommend use of the Labor Force Survey and/or the Family Income and Expenditure Survey to obtain annual poverty data, not necessarily by official measures of poverty quarterly and inclusive.

* * *

Contact: SMS: www.mrs.org.ph or twitter.com/philippinestrust.org.ph.

Zamboanga City goes multilingual

Commentary

Steven Rood

committee to 1.1 (Role language) promotion, instruction and research in Chavacano Mindanao.

In Kinyarwanda, Steven Nelson, associate professor in linguistics of the department of linguistics at UP Diliman, happened the forum. He presented some research findings on three of literacy in the Philippines, citing information from national achievement tests and international surveys. Dr. Jesse E. Dekker of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) emphasized the need for will MTBLE, pointing out literacy gains among learners as involved in mother-tongue-based MTBLE in the language community including. Dekker is the multilingual education consultant for SIL here.

Zamboanga City Mayor Celso L. Lobregat, in a special message, declared solid support for MTBLE. He cited the upcoming publication of the handbook, "El Primer Silabario de Dulce canto," a project of the city government in collaboration with the Department of Education and Dr. Roberto B. Gonzalez of Mindanao State University. He also lauded the efforts of ADEC, through its director, Antonio Diosdado San Vicente, president, for publishing recently the "Diccionario de Zamboanga, Compendio y Diccionario" by Dr. Yolanda A. Quijano, professor emeritus in the Cultural Studies State University.

Other speakers and workers included Bonna B. Bacon from the Children in the Philippines and Melinda T. Reid from the Translators Association of the Philippines (TAP), who spoke on Equity Childhood Education and MTBLE, and Mercedes Dewilderness in the L1 components. Teachers representing the Tausug, Subanen, and Yakan based in Zamboanga del Norte and "big books" were prominently displayed in the hall. Zeydil MTBLE national coordinator, Dr. Rosalina L. Alfanzo, also presented Zeydil's Blueprint for Teacher Training in MTBLE.

Antonio Perla E. Lesaca, director of the ADEC Language Property Office (LPO), also presented materials possess jointly produced with SIL Mal Technologies. Among those completed is the Chabacano Language Group Project which now has digitized Sabir-Chabacano-Tagalog-Inglis Language Dictionaries of the Chavacano Group Tausug, Yakan and Sama.

LPO is also developing audio products on these languages, complete with vocabulary, grammar and audio components and interested for instruction and research.

Rep. Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar, deputy speaker for Mindanao, capped the forum with a talk on "Policy Directions on Language, Culture and Education." The talk put MTBLE in perspective as the dominant policy development goals. The talk also presented the status of House Bill 1163, an act establishing a multilingual education and Literacy Program, on which the author related bills discussed in Congress.

Prof. Ethelyn E. Mendoza from the UP College of Education synthesized the forum and provided a road map for the issue ways in the MTBLE multilingual in the region. A full audit plan for teacher training and materials development in the L1 is currently being planned with ADEC faculty led by Dr. Gonzalez, educators from WMSU, TNP members and the Zeydil.

Local policy efforts supported by research and threefold development activities by higher education institutions and advocacy by concerned citizens and leaders provide the right combination to propel MTBLE implementation here. Given enough time, strengthening our schoolchildren's ability to speak, read and think critically through MTBMLE will surely aid efforts for peace and development in the region.

Steven Barrios Arnaiz, Ph.D. (steven@mail.ph-ace.com), is an associate professor and dean of the School of Liberal Arts of Ateneo de Zamboanga University.

Open Government

Business Matters

Edilberto C. de Jesus

SPEAKING At the United Nations General Assembly last September, US President Barack Obama probably did not anticipate that an upheaval in Egypt would illustrate his analysis. "The ultimate source of democracy in the world won't come because the United States declares it," he said. "It will come because individuals themselves demand a say in how they are governed." It will come, indeed, even when the United States may be unprepared for it.

Toppling an authoritarian regime is only the first step in building a genuine, working democracy. This note the lessons painfully learned by the Philippines in the long years after the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution, some 25 years before Egypt's early "Revolution." In both cases, civil society mobilized the masses, the military detached itself from the regime and a reputable Filipino leader (Cory Aquino) and a Nobel laureate (Aung San Suu Kyi) challenged the Philippines.

Cory Aquino had to confront a series of coup attempts by soldiers who wanted command of the republic to save it from the communists. Will the Egyptian army succeed in its role as supposedly a reasonable military rule to save the country from Islamic fanatics? Muslims? In the Philippines, civilian governments prevailed, but developing democracy in institutions remains a route in progress despite strong parties and presidents after the Philippines, as for the Philippines, it will not be an easy process. But if the Egyptians are fortunate, this will be the task that awaits them.

When Ferdinand Marcos abandoned the presidential palace and fled to Hawaii, many Filipinos and foreign friends assumed that democracy had been saved. The Philippines no longer needed assistance or support, and leaders could tackle enlivening their repairments. Filipinos who assume, then against Marcos in the parliament of the streets from 1972 to 1986 just believed they would resume their normal lives and leave governance to the government.

Now, we know better—after seeing how countries successfully imposing themselves have faltered and stumbled in the task of introducing or sustaining democratic governance systems. Even where true elected leaders who exploit official position for private profit pose as much of a threat to democracy as generals who capture political power by force of arms.

Obama's appeal for Open Government at the General Assembly was that democracy would not flourish unless governments maximize protection and nurturing. It was timely to measure the member states as strengths to the foundations of democracy by promoting greater transparency, civic engagement and institutional accountability in governance.

As a step toward this goal, the White House gathered chiefs from around the world to discuss an international Open Government Initiative. Participants came from developed and developing countries, from democratic and authoritarian and economic status, they shared a common concern about the growing distrust of governments around the world. By demonstrating their commitment to transparency, empowerment and accountability—to "do it with open government practices, they hoped they could help arrest the rot.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad joined this rare day White House meeting. Philippine participation in a meeting like this would have been unlikely during the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. It was a turned, according to Social Weather Stations surveys, in maintaining a negative trust rating during her years in office.

Even during Aquino's term, civil society groups empowered during the presidency of Cory Aquino continued to assert their right to participate in the governance process. But the potential and effectiveness of civil society groups depend on the openness of government. The Ferdy administration's advocacy for civic engagement and government transparency and accountability has shown when private-public partnership can accomplish.

Last November, the DBM, Congress and the Senate signed with Transparency International and INCITEGov (with non-governmental organizations, a "Declaration of Collaborative Engagement for Open Budget Partnership." The declaration established the mechanism, the principles and the process for boosting civil society in the preparation, enactment, implementation of the annual budget. Despite nine years in consultancies, the P-Noy administration passed the budget on time, something Arroyo never achieved in her nine years in office.

With access to information and technical training, government officials can be more effective at the grassroots level in demanding honest use of locally sourced from their local and national officials. This is important. As in democratic-ruling governance ability at the top to close high-profile corruption cases, fertilizer and textile scandals, the NBN-ZTE overpricing, and "pension payments" for retiring generals—that squander staggering sums of public funds.

Sustaining civic engagement against corruption requires a lot of work for both citizens and public officials. Civic groups must not feel they are plugging little leaks in the canals when the big breaks in the dam go unmended. It would be difficult to keep volunteers engaged in guarding the party-rank leaks when they suspect that incident are happily plundering the basin reader.

* * *

Edilberto C. de Jesus is president of the Asian Institute of Management.

Breakfast dates

MY MOTHER is a night person. She roams the house at night, looking for things to do, bills to pay, thoughts to write. I've always assumed that it's because she grew up with seven other siblings in a very crowded household. When you've surrounded by people all the time, the cold hours between midnight and 6 a.m. become a sanctuary. It's the time when thoughts come together and you can be free to pour for, when relatives from the...

Young Blood

Paulo Alcántara

My mom is a nurse, which the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? Please welcome contributor Paulo Alcántara. From the intermediate and below... Ed.

When I was a teenager, I would wake up in the new hours to feed light fixtures from our bedroom. If I got up from bed, I would see my mother sitting at the study window table and writing. Sometimes she would be reading furiously on a volume of reference. Other times she would be browsing through medical journals (Latin names always filled in boxes). Other times she would be recovering. Or, on the weekend of evenings, she would even be cooking something.

I would hear her walking around, thinking out loud, sometimes singing quietly. The muffling of her feet would tell me how she felt.

There were times when she would forget what hour it was and wake me up to ask the most inane questions ("Anak, did you turn off the kitchen light? Isn't the drapework your idea a happy birthday?"). Then she would climb back into the bed she shared with my father, and I'd go back to sleeping.

Now, my father is a recurring person. Since he grew up in a sleepy Batangas town, he is accustomed to early rises. When we were much younger, he would reprimand us for not making up early. He earned sleeping in as a sin, a grave offense in the very nature of humanity. "After remedying my blood-pressure problem (which I say persists don't wake up early)," he would admonish us in harshly accented Tagalog, an affectation he reserved for such occasions.

Throughout his professional life, he kept the habit of getting up at 5 o'clock, mainly because he was so restless. Just after the onset of prepaying the first hour in the morning was accessible that my classmates in the university would joke that their headed to that long-distance just to call to me. If he didn't leave at 6, his daily drive to work would take twice as long (and thrice as stressful).

His trusty brown shirts clock would never need made at 5 a.m. on the dot. Other changes are no less routine. My son (Yah yes, it's him). Tsampoi!"). And would his answer, take a quick look at the grass members on its familiar black screen, then look to the bathroom. He was engineered to be efficient, and he would have discovered and dressed in under 20 minutes when it was time. There was he came to the breakfast table, expecting his coffee, as exactly 15 minutes before it.

Even if what minutes are. Every single morning, for over 25 years, my mother, the Night Owl, would see breakfast with my father, this morning forces. That would sit there as the slippery "breakfast nook" (as my dad gleefully named it the name also stuck) and wait for my parents don't wake up early," he would admonish us in harshly accented Tagalog, an affectation he reserved for such occasions.

My mother, operating on one hour of sleep, would sometimes fall asleep in mid-sentence always the same: blind stare, arms folded across her chest, legs, feet, heads.

I would come down each morning to find my father reading the paper while inhaling his coffee. Like a true Batangueño, while my mother spewed random comments about a variety of subjects (ranging from to other matters to the state of the nation). There would argue frequently, laugh frequently, and tease each other. On bad days, good days, rainy days, sunny days, it didn't matter. My mother would always have breakfast with my father.

Of course, after everyone was where he should be (Carol, at least, dog eggs, etc.), she would crawl back into bed. But for her, that was the start of her day. Her bed would have his favorite smell of the day with her wife.

I never asked my mom why she did what she was doing, and she might answered, "Because this is what love is."

By the of a world where kinds of relationships are treated as meaningless disposable, and encouraging people have a no-point commitment and treated as superficiality. I see how heroic it used to a word used to market toothpaste or perfume, a tool for selling cheesy movies and books of the other. It's kind. We have become so jaded, so cynical that we fail to recognize that true—in its simplest and purest form—exists in the places that most screenwriters refuse to write stories.

It exists in bleak hospital rooms, where the sick are tended by the ones who make them to be well.

It exists in bus queues, where the harried and the stressed impatiently wait for dinner with their children after a long day.

It exists in short text messages from a worried sister, the ones that remind you to please look the specialists about her foot pain.

It exists in cars, where people sing out loud the songs for the ones they silently love.

It exists in empty churches that compel even the most hardened individuals to speak to their Maker.

It exists in many lunch boxes.

It exists in small smiles.

It exists in easy arguments.

It exists in wrapped presents.

It exists in cups of coffee.

It exists in obvious lies.

It exists in sighs.

It exists in tears running downing thoughts.

It exists in first love jokes.

It exists in bright, unfortunate crying.

It exists in the quiet before you sleep.

It exists in our breakfast table. Each day for as long as my mother loves my father and my father loves her back.

I was blessed to have retirement a year like this in my lifetime, and I pray that it runs lifetime after after that, too.

Our Adam Lawrence Madrigal, and Kyle—the two of her life. And my parents, who taught me how to love (unselfishly).

Paulo Alcántara, 28, is a senior accounts director in a Makati firm.

Notice to Youngblood contributors:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or employed. In the past, once you're finishing and the computer, you won't work. Contributions published.

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LETTERS

I JOIN the nation in praising Emil Abrahan for his sincerity and bravery in exposing the fraud committed in the BIR. He is only the most recent exemplar of a long line of CSAs audacious who have worked silently with integrity, honesty and competence.

Our common use of CDA audits, MR agents, Treasury personnel and government prosecutors who handed superiors to bring to court public highways officials and private contractors involved in the misfeasance-post-Ruptan 7 public highways fiends outside in 1977 to 1978.

It was unanimous: even then said the exposé led to the resignation of then Public Highways Minister Baltazar Aquino. That is documented in the book "Instinct of the Philippines Treasury" published in 1990 by the Fiscal Administration Foundation Inc.

Mabuhay ang mga tapat na lingkod-bayan!

—RODOLFODIVINO L. CAILAO, Legislative Research Service, Rm. 1008, 3rd Floor, Senate, Pasay City

Misleading info re sale of Maxicare

IN A letter to the editor ("Insurers clarifies issues pertaining to sale of HMO shares to investors," Inquirer, 2/06/11), Jose Victor Z. Perez, president of Maxicare Healthcare Corp., answered Neal Cruz's column with erroneous and misleading information.

1. Contrary to the claims of Perez, the sale of HMO shares in Maxicare is still pending arbitration before the ICC in Singapore. It is not true that the validity of the sale is finished. The issue has been affirmed by the Court of Appeals. In fact, the Court said that "the determination made by the trial court on the issue of the validity of sale and ownership must be understood to have been made provisionally for the purpose of resolving the main issue of whether or not the grant for preliminary relief should be issued."

2. The petition that was filed with the trial court against RCBC was in principle to secure preliminary reliefs in aid of arbitration. We, Judge Cesar Untalan of the Regional Trial Court of Makati, not only denied our petition for a TRO but declared on the validity of the sale to investors, to, without our said and when the sale was precisely the issue to be decided in Singapore.

3. It was Maxicare which then filed for an anti-arbitration injunction claiming that the uncertainty of the ownership of the HMO shares is causing difficulties to the marketing of its health-care plans.

Sir, arbitration was instituted precisely to determine and uphold the rule of the HMO shares in favor of the rightful owners, namely, Mr. Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. It is therefore puzzling why Maxicare (which is not even a party to the arbitration case) does not want the arbitration to proceed. It is so confusing why Makati RTC Judge Josefino Villaroza issued an injunction which, under the circumstances, is not allowed by the rules of the Supreme Court (there is nothing, in fact, to compel it to do so). He has inhibited himself from the case.

4. In not once warranting the implementation of the anti-arbitration injunction, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Division of the Supreme Court have in effect subscribed it, again in reminders of the Supreme Court rules and the time limit Commission, Rules, and Regulations for Investment Arbitration on the referral to the Court En Banc and to dissolve the writ of Preliminary Injunction.

5. But the biggest puzzler of all: why did Chair Tessie Cruz and top officials of MGO retain a lawyer when giving up the right of first refusal would have paid them the same price as was offered by Go? (If memory was touched-up, why did the sales documents had been executed in favor of Go.)

To those that does not get away with it!

—FELICITO C. PAYUMO and MIA JAMES L. GAVIOLA

Purisima reply to Tiglao needed

RIGOBERTO D. TIGLAO may be right in saying—well, just may be, until proven wrong—that "Agnes claims Arroyo wants gains." (Inquirer, 02/03/2011) This relates to the P29 billion in rebates, representing dividends from government-owned and -controlled corporations, recently turned over to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima to the National Treasury.

Tiglao has more or less alleged that the specific fiscal years from which these GOCC dividends had been withheld after the end of a given fiscal year. Much less, then, may the GOCCs' income for the year 2010 be made known as early as now.

But since Tiglao belonged to the previous administration—and how him plus just a few others, by the way, I calculated the taxpayer's "balanced news, balanced views" might be a same objective—it is but natural that his insinuations be taken with a grain of salt.

That said, methinks is now to lessen Purisima, who is in a better position to know the government's financial affairs, to forestall little what Tiglao said in his columns. Otherwise, if Arroyo's successor does not get the benefit of his administration's hard work should have been taken sold to the Marines. And we are not Marines!

—RUBY L. CORONEL, 39 Ilonga St., Golden Country Homes, Angeles, Barangay City

CHAIR SETO Brillantes at a Comelec flag ceremony

New Comelec chief should hit the ground running

CAPPAS Presidente Aquino's decision to appoint former election lawyer Gus Brillantes as the new chairman of the Commission on Elections.

Like many other Filipinos, I have long been frustrated with cheating and violence in our country's electoral exercises. But the government made the right decision to hold automated elections last May nationwide, and for the first time we were able to count the votes in just a few days, whereas in the past it took weeks to know the real winners.

We now must streamline procedures so that the next one would be even more credible.

Brillantes is a former election lawyer and a thoroughly familiar with election laws and rules. That gives him an edge over any outsider. Thus, he can hit the ground running and pinpoint specific areas where reforms are needed.

The new Comelec team should look at one problem that makes our elections particularly disorderly. I am referring to the irregular distribution of election cases. While the Comelec makes decisions only on election protests involving local officials, it can do much to remove undue influence from the election process by reducing the time it takes to resolve election protests.

I commend Brillantes for promptly asking his new flock to drop all election cases done by last May. Only then can we build up confidence in our election system.

This is a good start for him, and shows that he is a man of integrity. I hope he deals firmly with the entrenched mafia within the Comelec that apparently manipulates elections to favor their candidates, so that future elections would be truly free, honest and credible.

—CELSO RIERA, celsoa.ce@gmail.com

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To those that does not get away with it!

—FELICITO C. PAYUMO and MIA JAMES L. GAVIOLA

Have the most important social institutions failed us?

THE EXPOSE on anomalies among GOCCs and government offices has been shocking to most of us. Notable are the gross irregularities in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Apart from what the government should do to hasten and stop these irregularities, I would like to relate the scandals to the role of our three important institutions—the family, the schools and the Church—and ask ourselves if they are fulfilling their fundamental role of making better people out of us.

Consider the family. Do parents still find time to remind their young children to be honest, to study hard, to work hard, to play hard and to help others?

Aside from teaching good manners and right conduct, are our schools imparting to our students the virtues of good citizenship—respect for authority, integrity, loyalty and efficiency so that when they are called to serve in government or work as private citizens, they may be called upon to do so either in light of the Church? Should we not focus more on instilling Christian values, less on ritualistic practices? Was Nick Joaquin speaking the truth when he said "To Christianize Filipinos' senses when for hours his country described as the only Christian nation in the far East. He looked around, saw only greed, pride, idleness and violence. Questioning the rights of Filipinos' existence, he moans, is this Christianity?"

—ORCAR E. DAVOS, Corazon Industry Avenue Bonanza, 65 Mandiap Ext., Barangay Central, Silliman, QC

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Bail allowed when evidence of guilt is weak

I READ that Mahalaling Jr. "claimed" that the principal suspect in the recent car theft cases were let out on bail to continue with no less than 10 other criminal cases. As a former RTC presiding judge and Remedial Law teacher, please allow me to comment on the issues.

Under the 1987 Constitution and pursuant to Rule 114 of the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure, all persons in custody shall be admitted to bail as a matter of right, with sufficient sureties, or released on recognizance before the trial courts for offenses not punishable by death, reclusion perpetua or life imprisonment. It is also provided that upon application by the RTC for an offense punishable by death, reclusion perpetua, or life imprisonment, the grant of bail is discretionary. It is further stated that "no person charged with a capital offense, or an offense punishable by reclusion perpetua or life imprisonment shall be admitted to bail when the evidence of guilt is strong regardless of the stage of the criminal prosecution."

Today Peraldon Aquino one of this apparent predicament, it is imperative that he (now) to the penal provisions of RA 6539, as amended by RA 7659 (anti-carnapping act). Based on Sec. 14 thereof, the penalties will depend on the number of a person(s) involved in the commission.

(a) When committed without violence or intimidation of persons or force upon things—imprisonment of not less than 14 years and eight months, and not more than 17 years and nine months.

(b) When committed with violence or intimidation of persons or force upon things—imprisonment of not less than 17 years and four months and not more than 20 years.

(c) When the owner, driver or occupant of the motor vehicle is killed or raped in the course of the commission of the crime or the carnapped vehicle is used as a means to commit any of the felonies mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the penalty shall be imposed in its maximum period.

Accordingly, it may be stated that a person charged with car theft under the first and second modes of commission can be granted bail as a matter of right. This does not mean that the accused cannot be granted bail under the third mode of commission, which is punishable by reclusion perpetua or death. That is so because an accused charged with that crime, even if punishable by any of the above-mentioned penalties, perpetual or death, may still be bailed out upon posting of sufficient sureties, when it can be established that the evidence of his guilt is strong. Therefore, it is not surprising that the alleged perpetrators are still out of jail. More so because there is no limit to the number of bail bonds that an accused can post, irrespective of the number of charges that he faces in the courts.

Hence, if only the Presidente was given privacy or teaching before expressing such position in public, he could have been much more circumspect. Or perhaps it is about time that his legal advisers (members of Sen. Ideraan Defender Santiago as lightweights) should be made to see Tom Mabaliling to save him from public embarrassment.

—CESAR B. SOLIS, Rillaza 8 Subdivision Phase, Kaunlaran, Marawoy Bldg. 2, #1 E. Lama Avenue, Quezon City

People Power to drive out scalawags in uniform

IT IS now February season for indicted thugs as shown in People Power 1 and People Power 2. Some of the key players who were thrown before might become villains today.

Lt. Col. George Rabusa's resignation in favor of his brother-in-law, Gen. Angelo Reyes, who is "greedy in the AFP." This is near part of the nation's doomsday process. We don't need blood to wash away their sins, what we need is a sincere legislative inquiry and the Truth Commission.

Rabusa is also one who has filed a petition against the creation of the commission while some of their cronies (Justice), regional, Court of Appeals, even the Supreme Court is well on fully loaded with unarmed cronies—leading simple citizens to perform their malfeasances and to impose their "subalternate sin." Of course, there are still good judges who live within the tenets of morality.

This does the people will tolerate a coup d'etat against "dirty military officers." People Power is therefore afflicted to put down these "scalawags in uniform." While private Rabusa is "fighting the enemies in the hills, these generals are eating steak and drinking wine in hotels."

—DIONIS C. VILLANUEVA, Bagong Lipunan Condominium, Taguig City

Hope Heidi's example will encourage more of us

CHRIS BONO wrote a straightforward and touching piece about Heidi Mendoza ("Heidi, Heidi," Inquirer, 2/5/11) and it's always warming to hear that in spite of everything there's going on in our country, one people still slowly moving toward the right path for the good.

I don't know how to thank Heidi for revealing the truth about the scandal of Jun Ping, Jr. and also for being brave, dog-setup up feeling. And perhaps you could remind the passengers to be, since belongs on my flight seats. Salamat.

—JOSEPH M. GUSMAN, Hamilton Hill, China

P-Noy genial, Estrada forgiving at Reyes' wake

From page A1

Speaking to reporters at the Arlington funeral chapel later Thursday, Estrada said he wanted to pay his last respects to Reyes and reassure the latter's family that the Estrada had long forgiven him.

President Aquino also paid his respects to the slain general at the Camp Aguinaldo military ground chapel just as when the late general's remains were transferred yesterday.

Reyes, who was appointed AFP chief by Estrada, led the military in withdrawing support from Estrada during the second Edsa people power uprising in 2001 that led to the latter's ouster.

Pleading a Black polo and gray slacks, Estrada came straight to Reyes' widow, Imelda, and her five children and extended them a hug. Estrada, a godfather to one of Reyes' sons, regales just-married Jeri.

Biggest accomplishment

He said that in spite of Edsa 2, he remained friends with Reyes as his aide and concurrent chief of staff who led the Estrada administration's all-out war against the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

He the conqueror of the MILF's biggest military camp, Camp Abubakar. Reyes' record of the most successful all-out war against the Muslim secessionist group "which for more than 30 years was never accomplished by any general or AFP chief of staff," Estrada said.

"I believe that to his biggest accomplishment, and that was a further irony as he was Commander in Chief," he said.

Defending his son

Estrada said that Jinggoy Estrada, his eldest son, did not hold a grudge against Reyes. He recalled that Jinggoy was even present when Reyes had visited him in prison when he was under house arrest in Tanay, Rizal, while on trial for plunder.

In those visits, he said Reyes had explained the reasons for his defection, which the Estrada family fully understood.

"He told me everything, that there was too much pressure (on him)," he said.

Estrada said that his son was only doing his job as a senator during the questioning of Reyes at the Senate investigation into military corruption which is believed to have instigated Reyes' suicide.

It was Jinggoy who interviewed Reyes, Reyes' close friend, to appear at the Senate hearings and reveal the puzzle system in the military that allegedly resulted Reyes and other generals.

Jinggoy told Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, another of the Senate investigators, have been criticized his disrespecting and heartbreaking Reyes at the hearings which may have led to the latter's feelings of despondency and hopelessness.

According to Estrada, the senator was sent "out after this (Cathay Casino)," the former military comptroller accused of plundering P183 million in government funds.

"But it somehow went to Reyes," he said.

Estrada said he understood why Reyes killed himself.

"So couldn't take the pressure anymore. The pressure was too much already," he said.

Estrada: I'm a victim, too

And then Estrada lambasted into his supposed victimization, saying it was worse than that of Reyes, as he claimed to have been subjected to martyr publicity, "especially by the boys now."

"Remember, when I was being impeached, it was like a carkenwiki, not just once or thrice a week," he said.

"I was accused by 3,000 policemen. A mug shot was taken of me. I was humiliated, and my family and my relatives. I was humiliated not only here but internationally. But before President Gloy (Arroyo) died, she apologized to me publicly. That was a vindication for me," he said.

Estrada was impeached by corruption and incompetence by the House Prosecution Panel in 2000 and underwent an impeachment trial in the Senate. When the impeachment trial was derailed by senators allied with him, people stormed at Edsa in a second people power uprising that brought the then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into power.

Estrada was arrested and tried for plunder but allowed to be confined at his lavish Tanay estate. He was found guilty and sentenced to 30 years in prison in 2007 but was immediately pardoned by Arroyo.

To prove that Jinggoy meant Reyes and his family no harm, Estrada said his son would go to the wake.

"He has his own mind. I am not interfering but he said he would come here," he said of Jinggoy.

Everybody welcome

Estrada said Jinggoy left had upon learning of Reyes' suicide.

"We all feel bad. I myself felt bad. As I said, I'll never forget that he was my AFP chief of staff," he said.

He said he told Reyes' five sons to be strong and to take care of their mother.

Reyes' widow said Estrada had not told her of Jinggoy's plans to go to the wake.

"He did not mention that but as I've said, everybody is welcome. Those who want to come can come. All are welcome to pray," she said.

Goodbye, friend

Another one of Estrada's sons, Sen. Jose Jinggoy Joseph Victor Ejercito, yesterday issued a statement expressing his sadness over Reyes' decision to "sacrifice his life" in the face of corruption charges facing him and his family.

"Goodbye friend," said the statement from Ejercito, a half-brother of Jinggoy.

"While conspiracies abound that our families have gone their separate ways because of political maneuvers of an exploitative class, we all know that our families tried to forget about this especially President Gloy and Gen. Gringo Reyes," said Ejercito.

"I pray that he achieves the peace that he sought to achieve, including the loved ones he left behind," he said.

Aquino visit

President Aquino, who went straight to St. Ignatius Cathedral from a visit to Sulu jointly on Naga AD., stayed for about 25 minutes and was seen exchanging smiles and handshakes with Reyes' widow and sons.

Mr. Aquino and Senator Reyes spoke while standing in front of the white casket covered with the Philippine flag, surrounded by family members and close friends and members of the presidential entourage.

The President listened apparently to Reyes' young grandchildren sang "Tomorrow's Waiting for You," a line few years from where their grandfather lay.

Among those with the President were Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Armed Forces Chief Ma-anilla Daniel Jr., Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Philippine Air Force Chief Lt. Gen. Oscar Rabena and former Gen. Mike Ilagan.

Former President and Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo went to Reyes' wake at Camp Aguinaldo a little more than an hour after Mr. Aquino had left.

Arroyo arrived at St. Ignatius Cathedral while the 6 p.m. Mass was going on. She stayed for a few minutes after the Mass ended.

She did not greet Teresita Reyes who had left before she arrived but the Reyes sons were around talking to members.

Arroyo, who was accompanied by Mike Defensor, left without acknowledging questions from the media.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr. said the wake will be open for 24-hour public viewing until Sunday morning, when a final Mass will be said at 8 a.m.

In front of Sunday, Reyes will be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani with full military honors.

Other VIPs at wake

Other personalities seen paying their respects yesterday were Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Philippine National Police Chief Director General Raul Bacalzo, Metrocad Capital Region Police Office Chief Director Nestor Fajardo, Bureau of Corrections Director Rodolfo Diokno and movie director Carlo Caparas.

AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Reynaldo Mapagu led the line pallbearers who escorted the casket as it was carried by nine members of the military honor guard from the cathedral's Auditorium (area) played "Nearer my God to Thee."

The Retired Club of the Philippine was scheduled to offer a eulogy service at 7 p.m. last night. With Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Pazzibugan

Mubarak leaves Cairo

From page A1

since the 18-day protests started. They gathered up against a barbed wire cordon around the palace, about 50 meters from the palace walls at its closest point.

Tanks and soldiers of the elite Republican Guard, responsible for the president's security, surrounded the palace, a Reuters witness said.

Mubarak often spends time in Sharm el-Sheikh, a popular tourist destination on the Red Sea, and receives guests there.

The arrival of Mubarak's departure from Cairo came after Egypt's military threw its weight behind his plan to stay in office through September's elections, while pro-democracy protesters set to the presidential palace and other key symbols of the authoritarian regime in a new push to force the leader to step down immediately.

The statement by the Armed Forces Supreme Council – its second in two days and before Al Arabiya reported Mubarak's departure – had been seen as a blow to many protesters who had called on the military to take action to push out Mubarak.

Soldiers also took no action to stop demonstrators from massing outside the palace and the headquarters of state television, indicating they were trying to avoid another outbreak of violence.

Foreign governments said they were more determined than ever in the uprising renewed its 1980s drop.

The military statement endorsed Mubarak's plan to transfer some powers to Vice President Omar Suleiman and promised free and fair presidential elections in September.

It also promised that the hated emergency laws, in force since Egypt's authoritarian ruler came to office in 1981, would be lifted and gave a somewhat more specific timeframe than Mubarak had offered in his Thursday night speech.

Tanks guard palace

The military implied they would be lifted when protests end, saying it could happen "when the current security situation permits."

It also called for public services to resume and urged "the return of normal life" in order to safeguard the achievements of "our glorious people."

Undeterred, thousands packed into Cairo's central Tahrir Square, or Liberation Square, which has been the center of the uprising since it began on Jan. 25.

A few hundred protesters assembled outside the gates of Mubarak's Ittihadiya Palace. The palace was protected by four tanks and rolls of barbed wire, but soldiers were doing nothing to stop demonstrators from joining the rally and chanting anti-Mubarak slogans.

Others massed outside the Cabinet, parliament and the state television headquarters several blocks away from Tahrir Square.

Human barricade

Hundreds of demonstrators formed a human barricade around the building that houses state TV and radio, shielding the and raising away those who took them. Tanks and barbed wire surrounded the building overlooking the Nile, but troops did not keep protesters away.

Hopes that Mubarak would resign were raised on Thursday when a council of the military's top generals announced it had stepped in to protect the country's future. Commander told pressures to Tahrir Square that all their demands would soon be met.

Instead, several hundred thousand people mustered in disbelief and anger as Mubarak refused to step down.

Mubarak called the protesters' demands legitimate and promised free and September presidential elections...in which he says he will not run—will be "free and fair" with supervision to ensure transparency.

Constitutional amendment

He said that on the recommendation of the panel, he had suspended the amendment of five articles of the constitution to loosen the new restrictive conditions on who can run for president, to restore judicial supervision of elections, and to impose term limits on the presidency.

He also abolished a controversial article that gives the president the right to order a military trial for civilians accused of terrorism. He said it has now would "close the way" for eventually scrapping the emergency law but with a major caveat..."your security and stability are restored."

The emergency law gives police virtually unlimited powers of arrest.

President Barack Obama appeared dismayed by Mubarak's announcement. He said that it was not clear that an "immediate, meaningful" transition to democracy was taking place and stressed that too many Egyptians are not convinced that the government is serious about making genuine change.

Prominent reform advocate Mohamed ElBaradei, whose supporters were among the organizers of the 10-day-old wave of protests, called in a Twitter message on the Army to step in "to rescue Egypt," warning the country might "explode."

The Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest and best organized opposition group, called Mubarak's speech a "farce."

Mubarak strategy

In his address on state TV, Mubarak definitely repeated what he called "foreign dictates" that he leave office, a blatant rejection of American calls for an immediate transition to democracy.

The embattled president showed the strategy he has followed throughout the days of upheaval, trying to defuse the greatest challenge ever to his nearly three-decade authoritarian rule.

So far, he has made a series of largely superficial concessions while steadfastly refusing to his refusal to step down immediately or allow steps that would undermine the grip of his regime.

Reuters, AP

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Unclaimed lotto prizes worth P605M forfeited

THE PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has forfeited unclaimed lotto winnings amounting to over P600 million.

Manny Gaerlan, PCSO publicity and advertising manager, said the prizes were unclaimed because they were unclaimed for over a year.

"We need unclaimed prizes still for fortified office come year and will be donated to charity."

"At least the money will be put to good use; we will be able to help more people in need," Garcia said.

"We only give winners a year to claim their money, that's a long enough period already," he said, adding that the forfeited amount—P605,273,958.20—will monthly consolation prizes.

Meanwhile, a letter from Lucena runs P77.3 million in the Super Lotto 6/49 draw on Feb. 08.

The winner, who currently pursued the winning combination of 44-06-09-01-40-28, placed his bet in a kiosk in La Union. Tina G. Santos

Gun used in killing car dealer found

From page A1

Roger Dominguez, 35, and his detained younger brother Raymund, 26, are alleged to head a car theft gang that police have linked to the abduction and killing of car dealer Evangelina and possibly of Emerson Lozano, another car trader.

Raymund has already been charged with car theft with homicide for allegedly masterminding the killing of Evangelina last month.

Barbosa also said that based on records from the Philippine National Police Firearms and Explosives Division (PNP-FEED), the gun was registered to a Benigno Victorino, but a trace revealed that the gun was previously faced under Roger Dominguez.

Perfect match

According to the source, Miranda had also revealed that the missing charcoal gray Land Cruiser that belonged to Evangelina was parked at the fourth floor parking lot of the Marketplace mall in Eskwiring, Mandaluyong, near the entrance to the Bago Hotel.

"Hard records showed Dominguez used an Outlander during daytime and the Land Cruiser at night when he goes out," the source said.

The source also said Dominguez changed cars whenever he went around Metro Manila and stayed in four addresses—252 Sto. Tomas Calampot, Bulacan; 38 Road Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City; 347 M. Gomez St., Mandaluyong City; and 12-1 Gumaslan Gardens condominium, also in Mandaluyong.

The chassis and the engine number of the recovered Land Cruiser was a perfect match with the car records that Evangelina's father, Arsenio, brought, Barbosa said.

Police based receipts from the Zata dealership were uncovering to P4,500, a pair of Hermione slippers, a Swarovski 3 pathing receipts for the Outlander, a basket of flowers and a jar of mothwich spread inside the Land Cruiser which was opened through the magnetic key provided by the slain Evangelina.

Intelligence work and luck

According to the source, the arrest of Dominguez and Miranda was the result of intelligence work and pure luck, "when Dominguez panicked and went against the traffic flow while trying to avoid operatives he noticed were closing in on him."

He said the police team tipped off that Dominguez would be in the Quezon City area on board a blue Toyota, "and we were waiting for a blue Toyota, but what turned up was an Outlander driven by Miranda and we thought he was alone."

He said Miranda got off the van "in distract the operatives."

"But we noticed the van shaking, that's when we realized someone else was in the van seated at the back, who then took over the wheel and went against the traffic to escape," the source said.

Quezon City Police District Deputy Director Leopoldo Laupay confirmed this operation saying, "We have general information of his location and the chase was when he gave his license when he went against the traffic."

Two inquest proceedings

The elder of the Dominguez brothers had a day of it yesterday, facing two inquest proceedings in a single day.

He was first subjected to inquest proceedings early yesterday for violating traffic rules and usurpation of authority for allegedly trying to pass himself off as a policeman when he was accosted by police for a traffic violation on Roxas.

Then in the evening, Dominguez found himself with Miranda at the Quezon City Hall of Justice again, this time to face the car theft with homicide charges for the abduction and killing of Evangelina.

The alleged car theft gang leader tried to hide his face from the cameras with a towel and cap. He was also wearing glasses.

Chief Supt. Ferdie Espinosa of the Special Investigation Task Group assigned to investigate the murders, said it would be up to the inquest prosecutor to determine the charges to be filed in court.

The prosecution's requisitions is still subject to approval by five assistant city prosecutor Meynardo Bautista, chief of the inquest division.

Meanwhile, the mother of the Dominguez brothers said Roger was supposed to turn himself in on Friday, the day after he was arrested on a traffic violation.

"He was supposed to surrender on Friday... Now I'm sad my two sons are in jail," she said reporters in Camp Crame.

Roger's brother Raymund surrendered after the brothers were implicated in the death of car dealer Evangelina Lozano and the latter's coworker, Erwine Sotto.

Further investigations

According to Espinosa, the Toyota Land Cruiser was being subjected to a "masses study" to confirm the ownership of the vehicle. The information from the manufacturer will also be included in the evidence against the brothers.

He added that they are also waiting for the results of the examinations being conducted on other pieces of evidence recovered from the Toyota.

"Hopefully, the evidence we have gathered will pin them down to the Evangelina case," Espinosa said.

The police official also revealed that the Land Cruiser had been coming in and out of the Sings Hotel's parking lot since Jan. 31. Espinosa said they are also checking other vehicles parked in the area on the suspicion that they were also stolen by the syndicate.

Investigators have also verified that the license plate listed on the Toyota Land Cruiser (UGF-961) came from a white Land Cruiser owned by Charlie Marinas of Lamang, Bataan declared on The Mitsubishi Outlander (DTP-944) was also found to a Jessica Marie Mendoza.

Espinosa also underlined that it was Miranda who was driving the green Mitsubishi Pajero that blocked the vehicle of Evangelina when the car dealer was abducted.

"He (Miranda) was very involved in the (Evangelina) case," Espinosa said.

Wrapping up Lozano case

Espinosa also said they are "wrapping up" the investigation into the case of Lozano and Sotto. He noted that Oliver Lozano, the victim's father, had already filed a case of car theft and murder against the brothers and their cohorts before the Department of Justice.

He said the evidence used by Lozano was based on what police have gathered so far. He said they are just waiting for prosecutors to subpoena them to prevent other evidence they have gathered on the

Espinosa also said they have lifted a set of fingerprints from the syndicate's safe house that police raided last month in Ana Pantaleon, Pampanga. So far, they have some up with a match with a person who is already wanted for carnapping. Espinosa declined to reveal the name of the person of interest for now.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Cotabato, Akbayan solons join efforts to postpone ARMM polls

COTABATO CITY—Two lawmakers, one of them from a party-list group of President Aquino's political adviser, filed a bill seeking to postpone elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and for Mr. Aquino to appoint officers in charge there.

Rep. Arlene Bag-ao, of the party-list group Akbayan, and Cotabato City Rep. Jesulito Manalo wrote tonight to hold the ARMM elections together with the 2013 elections for national and local officials.

Akbayan is the party-list group of Ronald Llamas, Mr. Aquino's political adviser.

Senior Supt. Romeo Caramat Jr., Cotabato City police director, said he would enforce the order.

Senate and ARMM elections should be held simultaneously with the 2013 elections to "help ward off political intervention."

"ARMM elections will never be free unless the other elective officials will also be kept busy campaigning for their own election," she said in a phone interview.

Senate said the bill also seeks to extend the date of the start of the term of office of ARMM officials to 30 June 2013.

"This would mean that the terms of office of ARMM officials can neither be shorter nor longer than three years," Senate said.

The bill also seeks to establish a transition period during which Mr. Aquino could appoint officers in charge. These OICs would review the law that created ARMM and recommend changes to Congress to pave the way for implementation of the Tripoli Agreement and the 1996 peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front.

"It's now a question of whether to allow holdover officials to continue," said Bag-ao.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Ali Pangalian Balindong has filed a similar bill that seeks to allow holdover officials.

Senate said the Supreme Court has ruled in the past against holdover officials.

An expert on Mindanao autonomy earlier said the elections should be held as scheduled with "no ifs, no buts."

Fr. Eliseo Mercado, OMI, said holding the elections in August would elicit more support (Dayday Santos).

"But we said to the modality of an autonomy and self-determination," Mercado, also director of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance, said in a recent conference.

"The postponement of the ARMM elections seems to be the only earlier than emergence," Mercado said. Edwin Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase and Julie J. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Cordillera govs launch review, probe of drug cases in region

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The Cordillera's reputation as a mountain greening region has become "too dramatic," prompting its governors to launch investigations and reviews of drug cases.

Governors hope to get a better insight of why illegal drug cases don't prosper in court, said Baliligs Gov. Joel Dizon, head of the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC).

Governors agreed at the first session this year of the Cordillera Peace and Order Council (POC) to conduct a deeper study on drug cases in the region.

The council was led by Benguet Gov. Nestor Fongwan. Governor Evangeline Bernardo of Abra and Governor Baliligs of Ifugao attended the session.

Embarrassing moment

Fongwan, amidst a previous meeting with former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during which he requested to receive a commitment for aid, Arroyo instead brought up a news report on marijuana farming in Benguet.

"It was too embarrassing. I felt so embarrassed," said Fongwan.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said legal technicalities made it difficult to secure drug suspects in Baguio courts. Chief Insp. Edgar Apilis, PDEA-Cordillera chief, said some cases are dismissed by government prosecutors before they reach the courts.

Apilis said he complained to the regional state prosecutor about a case in Baliligs, but was told the prosecutors were overwhelmed because the Department of Justice had assigned the Cagayan Valley prosecutor based in Tuguegarao City to handle Baliligs and Ifugao cases, while the Benguet regional prosecutor had been assigned to deal with cases from the rest of the Cordillera.

Rane said the POC would seek lobbying for a Cordillera state prosecutor.

In a Jan. 25 press statement, PDEA said it seized P1.4 billion worth of illegal drugs last year which led to the filing of 86 cases.

Senior Supt. Joseph Adnol, chief of the investigation division of the Cordillera police, said police filed 59 cases against illegal drugs suspects.

Rewarding farmers

In 2009, Apilis said most marijuana producers earned away from Benguet and established farms in Tinglayan, Kalinga; Sadanga, Mountain Province; Bauko, Benguet; Conner in Apayao and Banaue towns in Ifugao.

His list, however, did not include Kabayan and Bakun in Benguet.

Fongwan said in exchange for projects, the Benguet government encourages clients campaign against illegal drugs.

The government used to provide livelihood funds to discourage Benguet farmers from planting marijuana, but Fongwan said "it felt like we were rewarding the rogues. We cannot do that anymore. We need to decided to change this tactic."

"I tried to nudge their consensus," he said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Death of 5 cops of cardiac arrest prompts exercise plea

By Nestor F. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—The series of deaths of five policemen in Western Visayas due to cardiac arrest have brought concern to top regional police officials over the health of their men.

The deaths prompted Chief Supt. Eugene Querol Jr., Western Visayas police director, to issue a directive requiring all policemen in the region to exercise and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The directive ordered police commanders to constantly remind their men to keep fit by exercising regularly.

It came in the wake of the deaths last month of five police men who suffered cardiac arrest—PO3 Jose Chavez, who died Jan. 3; PO2 Raul Tandoc, who died Jan. 31; SPO1 Gualberto Dimzon Jr., Jan. 11; PO2 Ebibby Gayongayong, Jan. 30; and PO1 Manfred Dumar, Jan. 23. Dumar died during training.

Jog, walk

"We have regular physical fitness test every semester but our personnel must not only exercise during the test. Regular jog" and Querol in a statement on Tuesday. "A 30-minute jog or walk everyday will keep us fit."

He said Turbo summon have been scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon to maximize the campaign for physical fitness among police in the region.

Querol also advised police men to regularly visit their doctors for check-ups.

Supt. Amarilo Bilicon, chief of health service of the regional police office, said lifestyle, lack of exercise, obesity, diabetes or a family history of heart diseases is the most common factors that lead to cardiac arrest.

The top cause of deaths of policemen in the region, however, is gunshot wounds, said Bilicon. It is followed by vehicular accidents and diseases.

Cops in crimes

In other news, policemen are being linked to crimes more like are they are shoppings and robbery committed.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo recently said his department and other agencies were investigating several policemen and police officers for alleged involvement in car thefts, particularly cases involving the Dominguez brothers.

Robredo, however, refused to identify the policemen and officers pending completion of the investigation. He said the investigation won't spare anyone.

The discovery of safe houses and bases of operation of the Dominguez car theft syndicate in Pampanga led to the removal of the provincial police chief. The officer, however, was likely to be transferred to the Highway Patrol Group which is in charge of car theft cases.

ALMOST Huckleberry supervises the funeral of Sgt. Zainah Caye Cesarez in Marikina, Rizalist

Personal condolences tough task in era of IT

By Alice V. Pai
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—Albert Macfarland may not be the person you want to see knocking on your door, if you have a child serving in the US Army.

As director for Missionary Affairs of the US Peace Corps in Korea, his job is to inform the next of kin about the death of a loved one in US countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Philippines.

"We want to inform the next of kin personally—not through the phone or e-mail," he told the Inquirer.

He, at his trained Casualty Assistance Officers, would go whenever the next of kin can be found not only because soldiers are family but their death is serious as an ultimate sacrifice.

"In this day where there's Facebook, Twitter, e-mail or SMS, it is a big challenge to be the first to inform the relatives of the deceased. Sometimes, they already know of the news by the time we get to them," said Macfarland.

Although his job is credible in nature, he thinks of it as a continuation of his 30 years of military service. He retired as Command Sergeant Major in 1992.

"I was a special Korea media relations job near to keep people alive. Now I take care of them in death," he said.

Of the 23 Filipino-American deaths in the US Army since 2002, Macfarland had either personally supervised the funeral arrangements of 10 or more in the Philippines or dealt with the deceased's family here.

Macfarland said an interpreter is necessary since they send someone who speaks the local language.

Macfarland was in Dumaguete and Siquijor last week to help back the remains of Filipino-American Sgt. Zainah Caye Cesarez, 28, a military dog handler who was killed in an attack by insurgents in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Jan. 12.

Macfarland also takes care of travel arrangements for family members in the Philippines who will attend a soldier's burial in the States.

He would get emotionally affected, especially when the deceased soldier was just starting a family. "I have to take a five-stage look and take a deep breath," he said.

Part of his job is to conduct search and retrieval operations for American servicemen in the Asia-Pacific, such as the 2002 crash of a Chinook CH-47 helicopter 7 miles northeast of Apo Island in Negros Oriental.

Macfarland chartered a village vessel and spent two weeks recovering the wreckage and the bodies of eight of the 16 servicemen who were killed in that crash.

"One metric is never to leave a fallen hero behind and no one person is ever too big," he said.

Macfarland also invited graves diggers involving right now in Siquijor to participate and deputy medical examiner, who in the case of Lt. Cmdr. Antonio Buemio Mejia, who allegedly jumped to his death while in Dumaguete. Then the second floor of the Silliman Aquino International Airport last December after he was arrested for possession of cocaine.

Now 65, Macfarland looks forward to more years in his job. "So long as I enjoy what I'm doing, I will continue doing what I can. As they say, when you quit having fun, that's when you need to quit."

Rare case: Girl, 17, gives birth to conjoined twins in Albay

By Marican B. Bristol
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—Doctors were closely monitoring the condition of the conjoined twins born last Monday to a teenage mother at the government-owned Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH).

The 17-year-old single mother Trish Sogod in Barangay 40, Isay, gave birth to two baby girls through cesarean operation past 3 p.m. on Feb 7. It was her first childbirth and the father of her babies did not even know she was pregnant and gave birth to conjoined twins.

The young mother said her parents helped her a lot during her pregnancy despite poverty. Her father earns a living selling coconuts and her mother is jobless.

Dr. Gil Fabalo Lim, the attending obstetrician and gynecologist, said the babies came out healthy but they were connected from the chest to the stomach.

"We already consulted an X-ray on the babies and we found that they have two hearts. We are only waiting for a CT scan to know if they share the same organs," Lim said.

However, a CT scan could not yet be conducted because the CT scan machine owned by the hospital was defective.

The young mother said she also did not have the money to pay for a CT scan in a private hospital that was estimated to cost at least P1,000.

Both babies, who still have no names, also have cleft lips, according to Lim.

The young woman was admitted in the hospital early morning on the day of her childbirth due to seizures and high blood pressure, which Lim diagnosed as eclampsia.

The babies came out from a single placenta and they had one umbilical cord. They weighed 4.7 kilograms at birth, according to Lim.

Lim said the case was very rare and the last time the hospital handled a similar case was 11 years ago.

Apart from Lim, there were several nurses that could examine the birth of conjoined twins, such as, but not limited to, neonatal doctors, experts on radiation, genetics predisposition, or drug intake.

"For the mother denied taking medicines or having any illness while she was pregnant. She had two prenatal checkups at their barangay health center which revealed that she had a healthy pregnancy," Lim added. He said that the mother's young age could also be a factor.

The mother of the twins said she had an ultrasound at Sto. Niño Ospital in Oriental, Isay, but the doctor is necessary earlier said the elections should be held as scheduled with "no ifs, no buts."

Fr. Eliseo Mercado, OMI, said holding the elections in August would elicit more support (Dayday Santos).

"But we said to the modality of an autonomy and self-determination," Mercado, also director of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance, said in a recent conference.

"The postponement of the ARMM elections seems to be the only earlier than emergence," Mercado said. Edwin Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase and Julie J. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Cordillera govs launch review, probe of drug cases in region

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The Cordillera's reputation as a mountain greening region has become "too dramatic," prompting its governors to launch investigations and reviews of drug cases.

Governors hope to get a better insight of why illegal drug cases don't prosper in court, said Baliligs Gov. Joel Dizon, head of the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC).

Governors agreed at the first session this year of the Cordillera Peace and Order Council (POC) to conduct a deeper study on drug cases in the region.

The council was led by Benguet Gov. Nestor Fongwan. Governors Evangeline Bernardo of Abra and Governor Baliligs of Ifugao attended the session.

Embarrassing moment

Fongwan, amidst a previous meeting with former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during which he requested to receive a commitment for aid, Arroyo instead brought up a news report on marijuana farming in Benguet.

"It was too embarrassing. I felt so embarrassed," said Fongwan.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said legal technicalities made it difficult to secure drug suspects in Baguio courts. Chief Insp. Edgar Apilis, PDEA-Cordillera chief, said some cases are dismissed by government prosecutors before they reach the courts.

Apilis said he complained to the regional state prosecutor about a case in Baliligs, but was told the prosecutors were overwhelmed because the Department of Justice had assigned the Cagayan Valley prosecutor based in Tuguegarao City to handle Baliligs and Ifugao cases, while the Benguet regional prosecutor had been assigned to deal with cases from the rest of the Cordillera.

Rane said the POC would seek lobbying for a Cordillera state prosecutor.

In a Jan. 25 press statement, PDEA said it seized P1.4 billion worth of illegal drugs last year which led to the filing of 86 cases.

Senior Supt. Joseph Adnol, chief of the investigation division of the Cordillera police, said police filed 59 cases against illegal drugs suspects.

Rewarding farmers

In 2009, Apilis said most marijuana producers moved away from Benguet and established farms in Tinglayan, Kalinga; Sadanga, Mountain Province; Bauko, Benguet; Conner in Apayao and Banaue town in Ifugao.

His list, however, did not include Kabayan and Bakun in Benguet.

Fongwan said in exchange for projects, the Benguet government encourages clients campaign against illegal drugs.

The government used to provide livelihood funds to discourage Benguet farmers from planting marijuana, but Fongwan said "it felt like we were rewarding the rogues. We cannot do that anymore. We need to decided to change this tactic."

"I tried to nudge their consensus," he said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Juan Bautista
Bureau Chief Connie E. Fernandez

Justice eludes Evelio 25 years after

By Marnie P. Burgos Jr.
Sun.Star, Antique

BERNIE SALCEDO and Divino Bermudez have borne the scars for 25 years. The mark of a bullet that pierced Salcedo's right forearm and shattered Bermudez' right ankle are permanent reminders of a bitter past of Antiqueños.

The two were among those wounded on Feb. 11, 1986, when heavily armed men killed former Antique governor Evelio Javier near the Capitol in San Jose.

Javier was among the leaders of the opposition United Nationalist Democratic Organization (Unido) monitoring the results of the Feb. 7 "snap" presidential election between opposition standard bearer Corazon "Cory" Aquino and strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Javier was in a huddle with Salcedo, Bermudez and Blasico Jumda when they were fired at.

Salcedo was 31 then. With his back to the gunmen, he tried to cover Javier for the opposition leader pushed him and shouted: "Save yourselves. They're only after me."

Javier was wounded in the right shoulder and fled to a rice storm covered by Leon Pe. But the attackers chased him and finished him off in a bathroom where he had sought cover. He had been hit by 26 bullet wounds.

Two days after his death, Javier's remains were taken to Manila and brought home to Antique for burial, met by tens of thousands of mourners. His passing helped spark the Edsa People Power I revolt on Feb. 22-25, 1986, which toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

"I can never forget that last thing that Evelio said to us because it symbolized his selfless dedication to his people," Salcedo said.

Javier is considered a martyr, especially among his province mates, for fighting and dying for the ideals he espoused—freedom, dignity, justice and peace.

His death anniversary is a special homecoming holiday on Negros Island. Here public places and structures in Antique are named after him.

Injustice

But many Antiqueños still believe that Javier's death has not yet been given justice.

On Oct. 12, 2004, the Antique regional trial court convicted former Constabulary Affairs Headquarters 6 (Camp Macario Ally) and political rival of Javier, who was tagged as the mastermind. It said it found no evidence to prove he was behind the killing.

But the court found guilty Pacifinder's lawyers Jose Jesus "Boy" Javellana and six others, namely Pacifinder's security personnel—former Constabulary Capt. John Doles, Vicente Wapalla, Ramon Hervillano, Henry Salaver, Eleazar Idenne, Henry Saguyera and Rolando Bermudez.

They were sentenced to a maximum of 40 years imprisonment, except for Saguyera who was sentenced to serve in 14 years in jail.

In a ruling dated Oct. 12, 2010, the Court of Appeals' Special 10th Division in Cebu affirmed with modification the RTC ruling. It upheld the conviction of all accused but ordered the release of Saguyera on the grounds of "reasonable doubt."

Two other accused, Eduardo Ivar, also Boy Muslim, and Pacifinder's son Rodolfo, were not sentenced because they have remained at large. Rodolfo fled to Canada and has been granted political asylum.

'Sour grapes'

Pacifinder maintains his innocence and brushed aside widespread belief that he ordered the killing. "I do not mind them anymore. They are only sour grapes," he said.

He said it was a "fair trial" as he had no influence over the witnesses since he was not in power.

Javellana and the other convicts did not appeal the CA ruling for filed a petition for parole, having already served the minimum period of their prison terms.

"Though they know they are not guilty, they cannot afford to wait for the court to rule and would rather take the shorter route," Pacifinder said.

Yesterday, Masses and programs were held and church bells rang simultaneously in Antique to mark Javier's death anniversary. The capitol town of San Jose has been covered with giant posters extolling the former governor's heroism.

His younger brother, Gov. Exequiel Javier, said the younger generation should be made aware about the life and death of the slain governor.

"Many of those who knew of what happened 25 years ago are aging or have died. We need to educate the youth about the past and the sacrifices of my brother," Governor Javier said.

Frustration

But many Antiqueños, including friends and Bermudez, have grown frustrated with the politicians and the political leadership in the province.

"After 25 years, our leaders have failed to live up to the principles which Evelio fought and died for," Bermudez said.

Salcedo said traditional politics, not reforms, had ruled the province and "leaders are doing the opposite" of what Javier believed in. "We had risked our lives and those of our families for reforms. Many are frustrated with what we are seeing," he said.

Bermudez said Javier had pushed for pioneer programs and projects and stood firm on political dynasties. Javier's advocacy on good government was exemplified in his famous call: "Ang paoon sa gobyerno bahar ha tagsan, bahal personalidad sa Public office is not a means of livelihood or is inherited."

Attendance to yearly commemorative rites has waned, Bermudez said. Most participants are government employees who are required to join the programs.

Pacifinder agreed that the political leadership in the province was contrary to Javier's ideals. "Look what is happening to Antique. Politicians who use Evelio for their own purposes do not practice his ideals," he said.

Governor Javier has been criticized for occupying the top positions in the province: governor for three terms and congressman for another three terms. He is now back as governor.

His son, Paolo was elected congressman in the 1st District in 2010.

But Exequiel said the family was not going against the ideals of his slain brother. "My son was elected by the people because we are in a democracy. The people wouldn't have voted for him if they think that was wrong," he said.

Salcedo said the struggle for reforms must go on 25 years after Javier's death. "Evelio said real change would only come through sacrifice and even shedding blood. We must not forget the sense that united us before," he said.

Those who were not yet born during Javier's killing and their only knew about his life and death through the stories of their parents.

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Army says tribal feuds helping foment rebellion

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Tribal conflicts in the Cordillera have become avenues for militancy and recruitment by communist rebels in the upland region, a military official said on Sunday.

Brig. Gen. Romulo Quimio, commander of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, asked governors who attended the Cordillera Peace and Order Council (POC) session here on Sunday to mediate before conflicts erupt.

Results until a military assessment showed that the New People's Army would intensify its activities "to gain leverage in the peace talks" that are scheduled to start on Feb. 15 in Oslo, Norway.

The Cordillera provinces have traditional peace pacts that are enforced to prevent village conflicts.

Ballingan, for example, operates under the barong system but residents there have been affected by the rampant violence and have become vulnerable to social ills, like crime.

Many conflicts are sparked by a crime that has victimized a clan or a tribe member, unintentionally breaking a peace pact with the perpetrator's clan or tribe, the Army report to the POC showed.

"Rebels are able to ride on the most and seem to become a vehicle for recruitment by communist rebels," Quimio said.

Governors Josef Bass (Kalinga), Nestor Fongwen (Benguet), Estrelanito Bonanno (Abra) and Eugene Balweg (Mt. Province) attended the council session.

The Army report said communist rebels operate in 18 villages in Abra and 10 villages in Ballingan. It classified 90 villages in the Cordillera as "threat zones" for rebel activities.

The report did not define or describe those non-violent activities, but it said the list of those occurred after the hostage-get and kidnapping, followed by election-related violence last year.

Quimio said rebel activities have gone down to just basic taxation, but NPA rebels are nearly active in the Cordillera's borders leading to Ilocos Sur.

Upland villagers are easy to lure, he said, because many communities are campaigning against mining operations in the Cordillera.

In Nueva Ecija, at least two soldiers were wounded after a clash with NPA rebels in Lanas town on Saturday. Mayen Calderon, Inquirer Northern Luzon, with a report from Armando Gudoy, Inquirer Central Luzon

DOWN THE DRAIN
A road in Barangay Bankal in Mandaluyong, Cebu City, turns into a stretch of pools of water in potholes as a result of a drainage system that does everything except drain excess water

$10-M World Bank loan not for lake dredging

By Marlowe Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—The $10-million loan for the rehabilitation of Laguna Lake isn't meant for dredging the heavily-silted water body contrary to an earlier statement supposedly from a Palace official, an executive of the World Bank said.

In e-mail from World Bank country director Bert Hofman to Bishop Archimandrite Meretchmann Christian said: "It could be what was reported, this project does not include any dredging of the lake."

"The main focus of the project is reduction in industrial waste water, treatment of household waste water, along with improved collection of solid waste, and water governance arrangements in connection so as to generate employment," the e-mail said. "There is no financing from the Bank government."

"We will provide a clarification note on our website, and will brief the officials of the provincial communications group on the contents of the project and its proposed extension. I hope this clarifies," the e-mail read.

A copy of Hofman's message, dated Feb. 7, was furnished the Inquirer on Wednesday by a concerned envoy to the shelved Laguna Lake Rehabilitation Project.

The source, who was interviewed by phone on Wednesday morning, requested anonymity for lack of authority to release the information.

Early this week, reports came out that "the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) has approved the $10-million loan for the rehabilitation and dredging of Laguna de Bay," following a press briefing made by presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda on Friday.

One news item, posted on a dredging website, Dredgexpo.com, quoted Lacierda as saying, "the Neda board—chaired by President Aquino—has approved the three-year loan from the World Bank and Royal Netherlands [and] replaced the unanswered P10.7-billion Laguna Lake Dredging Project that the President canceled last year."

Mr. Aquino ordered the cancellation of the contract, which was earlier tagged as a "midnight deal."

The current $10-million loan, signed by Mr. Aquino on Jan. 28, will finance the Laguna de Bay Institutional Strengthening and Community Participation (Lisesip) project, which began in 2006. The World Bank financies the Lisesip.

Representatives from the World Bank consumed by the lecture on Wednesday refused to confirm or deny the "private" e-mail.

Laguna Gov. E.R. Ejercito continues to support proposals to dredge the lake.

In a phone interview on Thursday, Ejercito confirmed that he made his statement. Interest in Mr. Aquino through a statement published as a full-page advertisement in the Inquirer on Jan. 25.

The statement was signed by all 28 mayors in the province and by Ejercito.

Hi-tech ways to keep track of Halsema get DPWH OK

WORKERS of the DPWH have started repairing portions of the Halsema Highway damaged by storms two years ago. DPWH-Luzon have started applying newer technologies to combat the constant threat of rock slides on the highway.

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has drawn up a satellite-based monitoring system to give its officials updated and accurate reports on road conditions in the Cordillera in preparation for heavy rains accompanying the La Niña phenomenon this year.

Rolliberto Carabbacan, DPWH Cordillera director, said Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson has authorized government engineers to apply two types of bioengineering systems on unstable roads that collapse or are blocked by rock slides during heavy rains.

Carabbacan said President Aquino has asked the DPWH to "have land all DPWH projects [in the first semester of the year."

"That means we intend to have [projects] completed by [photo: 'Pinpin' in 2009] repaired by the first quarter [January to March]," he said.

Repairs were delayed last year to give Singson time to study "alternative, cost-effective yet long-term solutions to the problem that can withstand the worst weather," DPWH records showed.

Singson picked systems that introduce trellis' grass or woven fiber nets on mountain walls that are vulnerable landslides, he said. These would strengthen the walls against run-off water.

Rhizomes 28 and 30 of Halsema Highway incurred the biggest damages from erosion and rock slides triggered by Pepeng, DPWH records showed. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

DPWH chief says season of negotiated deals over

BAGUIO CITY—The days of negotiated contracts in the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) have ended and transparency is now the ground rule at the agency which has been tagged as among the most corrupt in government, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson said.

"We are now operating in daylight mode," Singson said on Wednesday before delegates to the 22nd convention of the Philippine Association of Water Resources Social on Grand Mountain Hotel here.

He said at least 19 negotiated contracts have already been canceled in line with the transparency policy being implemented in the DPWH's procurement and project awarding systems.

Singson said contrary to the days of negotiated bidding—where contractors are picked by DPWH officials—procurement contracts and infrastructure projects will now be awarded through the open bidding system.

He said the DPWH now publishes the list of available projects for bidding on its website so that interested contractors will have a fair chance at submitting their proposals.

Singson also vowed to weed out flaws at the DPWH and maximize all government resources to reduce corruption.

One of the steps being taken, he said, is the outsourcing of some office functions such as communications.

"Payments and negotiations were currently being undertaken with a call center facility.

He also announced that the new policy being implemented at the DPWH has earned the government over P546 million as of July 2010.

Singson, however, admitted that achieving a corruption-free government is a gargantuan task.

But he said this could be realized if "we trek on a straight path" and follow the lead of President Aquino.

Aquino won the presidency on a platform of good governance and anti-corruption.

This early, however, critics are eyeing Mr. Aquino should pay more than lip service to the campaign against corruption because, they said, he has taken root in the entire bureaucracy. Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao

Task force formed to hunt suspects in girl's abduction, slay

By Norman Nagalkan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A police task force has been formed to hunt down the kidnaper and a Filipina who abducted a 6-year-old girl who was found dead in a cliff in the E. Cebu.

Senior Supt. Leode Elopre, Central Visayas assistant police director for operations, said the task force would determine if the abduction and killing of Ellah Joy Pique was the work of a human trafficking syndicate.

The task force is composed of the Mingladilla town police, the provincial intelligence division, the regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the regional intelligence division, which has the supervision over the Regional Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

A task force headed by Senior Supt. Elmer Dejal, Cebu provincial police director, was formed to ensure full coordination among the law enforcement agencies, said Elopre.

Upon said the task force would have to coordinate with the Land Transportation Office to identify the vehicle used in the kidnapping.

Chief Insp. Lauvel Abrasaree, Mingladilla police chief, said he had coordinated with the Bureau of Immigration to help determine the identity of the foreigner who drove the 900 cubicle Pajero used in the abduction of the girl.

Casimero Hindarang III, immigration Central Visayas division, admitted that it would be difficult to identify the foreigner based on an artist sketch since the immigration does not require names of thousands of foreigners.

Mahawang, however, said he has directed his staff to check the names of foreigners who reside in Mingladilla and nearby areas and match their pictures with the sketch.

During the municipal council special session yesterday, Abrasaree said the artist sketch of the perpetrators were based on the description provided by Pique's classmates and a driver who saw the girl with the suspects on the day Pique went missing.

Expressing alarm over the case, the Mingladilla municipal council on Friday passed a resolution offering a P100,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest of the suspects.

The council also asked the National Bureau of Investigation to join the investigation and for police to send more men to the town.

DHL golf victor Wang of a kind

Korean completes romp

By Mayang B. Castillo

CANLUBANG, LAGUNA—Wang Jeong-hoon completed the finishing touch to an overpowering week yesterday, closing out with a six-under-par 66 to win the WWW15.com-DHL Amateur Golf championship running away from Clyde Mondilla at Canlubang's North course here.

The 15-year-old Korean, who was six strokes behind the final round last year over a video dispute, held off the reigning Philippine amateur champ Mondilla by going birdie-birdie-par on his last three holes to tally 276—10-under over the 54-hole championship format—for seventh title in eight tries.

It was the biggest win for the young superstar who calls Bicutan home, and it certainly erased bitter memories of last year when he fell short of forging a playoff with eventual champion Asad Abdala.

"Yes, biggest," Wang said in halting English after snapping his seventh title on Philippine soil while he hopes he could follow up with the Philippine late title in April in his home country.

Mondilla, who will carry the fight for Del Monte in the Philippine Airlines Invitational in two weeks, also fired a 66 spoiled by a bogey on the par-5 No. 14 which proved him within two.

The 17-year-old Mondilla, who earned second place after a second round 68 on Wednesday for an 8-stroke from 13th pack to within just length for his night.

But Wang responded with a routine par on the next hole while Mondilla bogeyed and then went birdie-birdie in the next two holes.

Johan Cunha cracked 76 for the third straight day, his 68 giving him solo third at 286, two strokes ahead of Jamie Ben Gludon, the 21-year-old former Cebu lobang runner who matched par.

Gregory Pao was fifth at 289 after a 70 as the rock-solid Singaporean amateur didn't come close to duplicating Quincy Quek's scintillating 2005 victory over Filipino ace Pedro Nunez.

Jessie Bulanday had the amateur ranks goodbye with a 71 and wound up sixth on 290, in a tie with China Hilarion, who also shot a 71 and two clear of Jimmy Barrera and Carl Santos-Ocampo, who had 71 and 76, respectively.

AT LAST . . . Bamagad Bureau superstar Wang Jeong-hoon kisses his trophy.

In women's play, Lorelie Gutierrez held on to win after firing a 73 to nip Amelie Orozco by two strokes. Counting earlier rounds of 72 and 75, Gutierrez rolled to level 220.

Chihiro Ikeda finished third after a 75 for 223.

Wang will play for Bicutan in the Interclub and is a hot choice in individual play if he club allows him to see action at Del's Del Monte and Pueblo de Oro.

Miguel Tabuena, the winner of the Guangzhou Asian Games silver medal last year, closed out with a 75 and handily clung on to a place in the Top 10 with a 289 total, in a tie with Germano regulars Rosario Arbon, who had a 73.

The four aces:

Wang, jr. year in amateurs: 276–2 shots; 7 Mondilla 286–2 James Tantiangco 288–2 Shiro 87-75-70-72–286—3; Bin 1981 75-71-69-72–287—4; Hilarion 71-73-73-71–288—5; Cunha 76-71-71-70–288—5; Ibarra 70-74-73-71–288—5; Santos-Ocampo 73-67-75-73–288—5; Ikeda 73-72-75-70–290—9; Gludon 68-74-76-72–290—9; Pao 70-73-73-74–290—9; Bulanday 71-73-75-71–290—9; Abad 74-71-73-73–291—10; Barrera 71-73-76-71–291—10; Gutierrez 73-75-73-70–291—10; Orozco 75-73-73-70–291—10; Arbon 73-73-75-70–291—10; Tabuena 75-73-73-70–291—10.

Canlubang loses PAL Interclub ace Tabuena

By Mayang B. Castillo

CANLUBANG LOST a total piece in its bid for a sixth straight Philippine Airlines Interclub title after Miguel Tabuena orphaned the squad at the last minute, citing conflict in his home school schedules.

The 16-year-old, silver medalist in last year's Guangzhou Asian Games, informed the Negar Heroes of his decision a few days ago, forcing the squad to sign up a rookie, Miss Debon, for the golf championship of the event on Feb. 23.

Del Monte in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, and Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro will be the venues for the two-day.

The time, the 18 players in the championship division need to have a combined handicap of 62. The changes the old practice of matching up the same with less handicappers.

The withdrawal of Tabuena has suddenly made junior Philippine crown member Adrian Carbo as the spearhead of the Batrea, who will play senior naiboars Tommy Manotoc and Dave Hernandez as well as 12-year-old Bryanne Zamgosa III and Gabriel Manotoc in the Women event to meet the competition at least.

Del Monte, which won its first and only Interclub title in 2006 when the late Ismael Northern Mindanao, is the prohibitive pick coming in its inclusivity with the lawyers.

Also a major contender is the Tan Country Club of Laguna.

This year's competition is backed by platinum sponsors Boeing, Airbus, Studio Mitsuwa, Siemens, Philippine Airlines and Interim Broadcast Media (EWWW). Major sponsors are People Asia, 105.1 Crossover, DZ Asia-tron and Traversing the Globe.

Mongolia coach: PH Azkals beatable in Ulan Bator

AZKALS AT MACCOB . . . Members of the Philippine football team and PFF officials pay Pagcor chair and CEO Cristino Naguiat (seated at center, second row) a courtesy call yesterday. Flanking Naguiat are (from left) Pagcor board member Lito Tuquero, team manager Dan Palami, PFF president Mariano Araneta, and a Pagcor official.

By Cedrill P. Tupas

MONGOLIA HAS vowed to bounce back in Ulan Bator next month when it tries to overturn the Philippines' 2-0 lead in the second leg of their AFC Challenge Cup qualifying duel.

"The Mongolians have an edge because they are used to playing in cooler conditions, and local match funding day. Unbeaten a confident that his team can pull off an upset.

The Azkals prevailed in the Dasmariñas Stadium in Bacoor City, thanks to well-taken goals by Chieffy Caligdong and Phil Younghusband.

Hehenkar, who left Bacolod with the Mongolian contingent just a few hours after the match, pointed out that the humid conditions may have sucked the energy out of his team.

The second leg of the qualifying series is set at 1 p.m. on March 23, and Mongolian team officials expect the game to be played in cold, snowy weather.

Former Philippine national coach Aris Caslib said the priority for the Azkals is to get used to the weather conditions in Ulan Bator.

"Getting used to it is very important," said Caslib, who has mentored coaching courses in Mongolia.

The Mongolians will miss midfielder Bayarsaikhan Gendsaikh, who was sent off in the second yellow card on Wednesday.

But the Azkals could also miss goalkeeper Neil Etheridge, who may be tied up with his squad, Fulham, in the English Premier League.

Defender Rob Gier is unsure of his status for the Mongolia match, while midfielder Simon Greatwich is also doubtful because of academic commitments at Dartmouth College in New York.

The Azkals are taking a one-week respite from training with German coach Hans Michael Peter flying to Japan to be with his family.

Team manager Dan Palami said that the squad will be training in Baguio City, as well as in the artificial turf of the International School in Taguig.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. has asked the Philippine Football Federation to entertain a proposal for a possible sponsorship of its programs, according to PFF president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta.

Pagcor's pledge comes after a memorandum of agreement for Smart Communications' sponsorship package of P80 million to the PFF for the next 10 years was signed last night.

'Football's rise is not basketball's demise'

THERE WAS a palpable feeling of frustration among the Azkals Wednesday night.

Beneath the jubilant mood in the dugout following their 2-0 triumph over Mongolia before over 10,000 boisterous fans at Rizal Memorial Football Stadium—an eyewitness said team members secretly cried over spilled milk.

The Azkals heavily favored to handle the outmatched Mongolians in the home-and-away series of their Asian Football Confederation Challenge Cup qualifying match, could have scored more but didn't.

They launched 20 shots and were able to convert only two.

"Perhaps the electricity from the tumultuous crowd made the team nervous," deadpanned team manager Dan Palami of the team's expected scoring binge that never happened. "It was a weird feeling taking all the sights and sounds in."

"For our first home game in a long time, the crowd was cheering for you, one against you. And there a whole stadium full of people...we just the usual 11 individuals...even singing the national anthem with emotion."

Fitting blanks at the most opportune times exposed the team's lack of scoring moves, but a win is a win, said Palami.

Next stop for the Azkals—Ulan Bator, Mongolia, for the away leg of the qualifiers on March 15.

To help acclimatize the team to the adverse and the weather of the coldest capital city in the world, the Azkals will train in Baguio City from Feb. 21 to 25. Practice matches being looked at include those at St. Louis University and West School.

Like in Superbowls, holding practice sessions without attracting too much attention is a matter.Allied Cordillera region should be a challenge for team management.

The Azkals are a long way from their coveted goal—the main Challenge Cup tournament of the AFC and ultimately the 2015 Asian Cup in Australia—the continent's version of the World Cup, the most watched sporting event on the planet.

With their latest triumph, however, the Azkals not only reminded themselves with new importance.

* * *

Meng still watching the semifinals of the prestigious MV Sandel Cup for the first time last year, the losers has supplied fresh legs to a movement to make football, and basketball, the country's national team sport.

But a basketball official is unpersuaded.

Following a rise in new basketball's demise," said Noli Eala, executive director of the lumabang Basketbol ng Pilipinas. "They should not be pitted against each other. Just as football and basketball are being developed, all sports should be developed."

Although the Azkals continues to scale new heights of popularity, Eala remains confident about basketball's pre-eminence as the country's most popular sport.

"I am happy for football's breakthrough effort, though. It is good for the sport," according to Eala. "I believe that the football's now getting it upon the right way."

The SBP without success in the Asian Games and other world stages since Basilio Ramos tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan took the helm, is busy preparing a team to the Southeast Asian Games late this year.

The basketball NSA is pulling out all the stops to defend the country's SEA Games basketball title—the last vestige of the country's faded basketball glory in Asia.

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Berba

Rosales shoots a 68 but stays 6 shots off

GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA—The Philippines' Jennifer Rosales started with a four-under 68 but still remained six shots off the leaders after the second round of the Australian Ladies Masters at Royal Pines on Friday.

Rosales' 136 total after 36 holes is good for a share of 23rd place with eight others, including Filipino Frances Bondad (107), who now plays for the host country.

American Stacey Lewis and Australian Kristie Smith shot 65 to share top spot. Both were at 12-under 132. Yani Tseng of Taiwan shot a 66 and lay third, a stroke behind.

Six players were tied for fourth, two strokes back: Germany's Sandra Gal, who had a 64; Americans Dyann O'Toole and Sarah Alfaro; Ashleigh Simon after 66; Aussie Sarah Kemp; South Korea and England's Melissa Reid following 67's and Maria Hernandez of Spain, who shot 68.

ROSALES: Steady

English veteran Laura Davies shot 67 and was at 136, four behind. Seven-time winner Karrie Webb shot 71 and was four off. AP

OB Montessori keeps unbeaten WVL record

OB MONTESSORI (coutinho de Jesus) Gilegio de Jesu Rosa, 25-17, 25-17, over the weekend to claim its fifth victory in Group A of the 17 Under Development Category in the Basic Cristo's cage tilted 15th Women's Volleyball League at the Xavier School gym.

OB Montessori also marched the exhibition second of Pearl Bonhill, which leads Group B in the tournament sponsored by Mikasa.

The local Montessori boosted ordered new hispanic Santo Sacrobal School Indian tormenting Colegio de Santa Rosa, 25-9, 25-23, and La Salle College Antipolo (15-13, 25-20, 25-14, as starters 1-1.

Immaculate Heart of Mary also topped victories over School of the Holy Spirit, 25-23, 25-16, and La Salle Antipolo, 25-22, 25-18.

SHS (2-1) blasted Fugitive Sacred Heart School, 25-14, 25-19.

Assumption Antipolo (3-1) walked over St. James Academy-Holy Family (2-1) scored OB Montessori this Ann (9-4), 20-6, 20-7, to advance to 4-0 capped Bethany (3-1), 23-25, 25-19, 25-17, and Sitti topped OB Montessori this Ann, 25-12, 25-16.

So settles for quick draw with Russian GM

MOSCOW – GM Wesley So wisely played it safe and settled for a quick draw with GM Vasily Papin of Ukraine in the third round of the Aeroflot Open chess championship at the Hotel Cosmos Zvilla here Thursday.

So, who is still looking for his first major championship title, goes squared with the lower rated but super-consensus Papin (Elo 2568) in the early part of the match before accepting the truce offer in only 31 moves of the Slav defense.

The 17-year-old Filipino champion, who bagged the coveted top junior player award here in the last two years, is still reeling from a shock second round loss to GM Ahmet Mecitoglu of Russia last Wednesday in what analysts said was largely due to his eagerness to pursue a win despite a drawish position.

There was no such mistake this time.

So, who joined Match for the second time in three rounds, took the safe route against Papin and did not take unnecessary risks after an exchange of queens on the 16th move.

The draw left the 15th-seeded So with only one point, one full points behind defending champion and perennial Southeast Asian rival GM Le Quang Liem of Vietnam and one a half point behind top seed GM Gata Kamsky of the United States and eight other players.

The road to the championship, however, only gets tougher for So when he squares off with GM Zhou Weiqi of China in the fourth round today.

Le, who made history by becoming the first Asian to win the title for the first time in the 2010 Lake Lenne of Slovenia to grab the sole lead with three straight wins.

In Group B, GM John Paul Gomez and GM Darwin Laylo are still in contention with 2.5 points out of a possible three.

SIZZTHEM Kendrick Perkins of the Boston Celtics (right) and Los Angeles Lakers' Andrew Bynum fight for possession.

Lakers spoil Allen's big day

BOSTON—The Los Angeles Lakers spoiled Ray Allen's record-setting game with a second half comeback to earn a 92-86 win over the Boston Celtics on Thursday.

Allen made his record 2,561st three-point shot with 1:48 remaining in the first quarter to give the Celtics an early eight-point lead and drew a standing ovation from the Boston fans.

"I knew I only needed two threes, but on any other day or any other game, it would have happened just like that," said Allen. "That second three was almost close-to-the-vest ... I was like, this is it. It was definitely a magical moment."

Former Indiana Pacers guard Reggie Miller, who was in attendance, had held the previous record for career three-pointers.

The Lakers trailed by as many as 11 points in the second quarter and by eight at half time, but a 10-0 run to start the second half allowed them to get back into the game.

The Lakers outscored Boston, 27-15, in the third, led by 32 points from Kobe Bryant after he scored just three in the first half.

"In the first half, they got a lot of easy opportunities in transition. We just had to put a stop to it," said Bryant.

Bryant finished with 32 points, Pau Gasol had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Andrew Bynum had 16 points for the Lakers.

Allen led the Celtics with 26 points and Paul Pierce had 12 points and 10 assists.

In Denver, Arron Afflalo sank a 18-footer at the buzzer as Denver ended Dallas' 10-game winning streak in dramatic style, 125-123.

In Phoenix, three days after his 37th birthday, Steve Nash had 18 points and 11 assists, then ran out the fourth quarter as Phoenix went on to post an easy 112-88 win over Golden State.

Shaq steps down

Meanwhile, Hall of Famer Jerry Sloan stepped down on Thursday after 23 seasons and 1,127 wins as head coach of the Utah Jazz, League assistant Phil Johnson, who also was in his 23rd season with the Jazz, also resigned. Jazz assistant Tyrone Corbin will be the new coach.

—Reuters, AP

POC hails President's new sports' thrust

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee somewhat expressed delight over President Aquino's vow to promote football and other sports when PSA system can be successful in the wake of the recent success by the national boxers popularly known as Azkals.

POC spokesman Jose Romasanta said the President's "active interest and concern is something that augurs well for the future of Philippine sports."

POC chair Monico Puentevella also lauded Aquino for "bolstering the footings" of his mother and late former president Corazon Aquino who signed Republic Act 6847 which created the Philippine Sports Commission in 1990.

Aquino announced during a courtesy call of the Azkals on Thursday that "the whole sports program is currently under review."

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and PSC chair Richie Garcia earlier presented Aquino a blueprint of Philippine sports last week.

The President said priority should be given to boxing and shooting but "of course, football is on top of the list, given what they have already demonstrated."

After watching the AFF Suzuki Cup semifinals for the first time last year, the Azkals whipped Mongolia, 2-0, in the first leg of the AFC Challenge Cup qualifying last Wednesday before some 20,000 fans at the Panaad Stadium in Bacolod City.

Emelio "Chiefly" Caligdong and Phil Younghusband provided the goals for the Azkals.

PBA on Studio 23 long overdue

INSIDE SPORTS

Ronnie Nathanielsz

WE ARE pleased that giant broadcast network ABS-CBN has authorized the division of the PBA board of governors to approve the request of Solar Entertainment Corp. to transfer the television coverage of the PBA games for the one league established conference of the 2010-2011 season from RPN-9 to Studio 23.

Three years ago, when the late Tony Cojuangco was PBA chair, the resolution was that it was better coverage on RPN-9's Aquinnah-2 bigger bandwidth for and it cites by Solar that RPN-9 had better signal and consistently catch than Studio 23 described the deal.

With the passage of time, the fundamentals appeared to have changed. Solar itself went before the board and spoke of the strengths of Studio 23 compared to RPN-9. The turnaround was obviously driven by a management decision to relocate Channel 9 and unload all its sports properties.

We have consistently advocated the airing of the PBA games on Studio 23 of ABS-CBN. Being associated with a huge network and its many channels not a foreign plus for the PBA to promote and develop the league and its enhancing public awareness.

The PBA games on Studio 23 also places the league in a sporting environment where many quality is provided by the network's coverage of the NCAA and UAAP collegiate leagues from where the future stars of the PBA germinate.

* * *

Pba stats have Banks and countrymate Chito Salud deserves to be commended for a record appreciation of the passion within.

Banks, knowing that the time comes to turn history his 20 earning had entered the game's top as a PBP channel, cash in RPN-9, and set to a 41 9 channel, and the board members had consulted with their team owners regarding the transfer before reaching a decision.

"Given the time constraints and lack of available and acceptable UHF channels at this time, the board allowed the transfer of the coverage to Studio 23 for the rest of the season," he said.

The game features Ignacio and "Bill To Be" Mayor Jesse Robredo (Pinglatan's MICU group there to help anybody that can't carve a name for their career and sports channel to if they wish to raise the right to be the resource meeting in August, when the Solar contract ends.

* * *

There was no way the PBA could justly giving the coverage of the remaining two months more to the ABC-5 group which planned to advertise the games in the 10 minutes to be opened 10:00 Channel 41.

A deck with the engineers at ABC-11 showed that among its seven stations, only Manila had a decent signal. At last a 50-kilowatt transmitter but it operating at just only 25 for Mindanao's Davao and 10 each in Cebu and Iloilo.

BC Cebu and Davao have 5 but transmitters. Laguna de Oro 1 has little 600 units and Lanao a mere 300 units with a weak relay station in Baguio City. The reception is poor simply due to lack of signal strength and facility.

New data also reinforced previous findings submitted to the PBA board by a group engaged that Studio 23 has a much wider reach and is absolutely superior signal quality in key sites around the Mega, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo and Cebu and Bacolod, among others.

MBA-CBN vice president for Sports Willy Marlangi welcomed the transfer "closing in 6 days from the PBA and Solar Entertainment. Both empowered upon institutions in the country."

"We consider this event as a way of notification on Studio 23, its branding, and to extend sports development initiatives," said Marlangi.

Solar and ABS-CBN have been engaged in a preliminary agreement with Solar to release the MBA games on Studio 23, the network will send to protect the image and reputation of Studio 23. It cannot countenance mixed cards and can make some effort to enhance the Solar coverage of the PBA games as it doubts women, men, though ostensibly it's a blockbuster or competition.

That's what the public is looking forward to.

Pagcor boosts PSC coffers by ₱50M

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission will receive about P50 million more from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation this year due to an increase in Pagcor earnings last month.

Pagcor CEO and chair Cesar Montano Nagmist said the additional amount represents 10 percent of the total P5.19 million Pagcor remitted to the PSC last year based on the sports agency's five percent share from the net income of Pagcor.

Jim Nagmist, speaking during a courtesy call of the Philippine football team Azkals at the Bigmac affairs in Ayala Hotel yesterday, added that Pagcor is not about to give in to calls from several lawmakers that the agency's share be based on the old five percent of the gross income.

He said the old computation was revised by President Fidel Ramos during his term.

GARCIA: Additional P50M

Although he refused to comment on Nagmist's remarks, Garcia said the agency may ask for a P70 million shortfall this year after receiving only P50 million from Pagcor last month.

The PSC is getting an average of P45 million monthly from Pagcor which is used for the training and competition expenses of the national athletes.

Fifth-leg co-champions among NCA derby faves

THE THREE entries that shared the championship in the fifth leg of the National Cockers' Alliance (NCA) derby series are out as the favorites in the sixth leg on Sunday next week at the Tuazon Sports Arena in Pasig City.

Arsenio Santos "Jade Nasser 1" entry Vice Gene and Belen Uy's "SF Sun Beaver Cockpit" and Jun Espiritu's "Universal" shared first place with similar 4 points in the 5th. It derby board by Manny and Arsenio Santos.

Missing the title by half a point were Jesse Asuncion's "Firefly 12" and Oun Dela Cruz's "Goldpoint Champions."

Behet Bonus, Bad Escalier and Homer Mercado and friends are staging the latest NCA derby where some of the country's finest cockers are seeing action.

All NCA derbies are sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor.

BACK ON TRACK Tiger Woods is in contention for a first title in 14 months after a six-under par 66 in the second round on Friday marred the two-time Dubai Desert Classic champion's re-while three shots off halfway leader Thomas Aiken. Woods moved to seven-under (137), tied with Oscar Anders Hansen (SWE) and Britain Michael Howe (67). Simon Africa Aiken returned another 67 for a 13-under halfway total of 134.

Dizon, Santos seek 2nd drag race wins

ACTOR ALLEN Dizon is a heavy favorite when the Petron Pistolero Series 2011 National Drag Racing Championship stages its second leg today at the Clark International Speedway in Angeles City.

Dizon topped the kickoff leg, beating new lady driver Wheni Alfonso Jaqueiden and defending champion Anthony in the Pro-class division.

Pepi Ramos Gkwuler goes for his second victory this season and his fifth straight since last year in the Quick 8 class.

Dizon's triumph changed the atmosphere of the competition," said race director Ni Gollo. "Now, every competitor wants a crack at victory and we expect this year's title hunt to be more intense than before."

Ramos, who set the All-time fastest Honda car record of 9.247 seconds, faces tough challenge from Edward Paek, William Hand and reigns John Ryan and Steve Caldwell.

The field is expected to blast to 200 of for a record 176 entries participated in the opening leg.

For inquiries, call 0172241 and 7205265.

Shakey's GVL: St. Scho, DLS-Lipa eye No. 2

A HOT five-game hill, featuring the St. Scholastica University of Santa Tomas tandu and the De La Salle Lipa-Perpetual Help Medical tandu, ushers in the third conference of the 8th Shakey's Girls Volleyball League at the San Juan gymnasium.

The St. Scho and DLS-Lipa spikers are shooting for their second straight victory and the lead in their respective divisions after handling separate rivals last week.

St. Scho downed University of the Philippines Integrated School, 25-17, 25-14, in their 8 action while DLS-Lipa held off University of the East, 25-13, 25-17, in Pool D of the four-category tournament hosted by Asics, LBC, Today's Sports and Milana.

But St. Scho will have its hands full against UST in their 10 a.m. encounter. DLS-Lipa squares off with Perpetual at 1 p.m., semifinist of pushing up its second win.

St. Scho plays another game against La Salle-Antipolo at 2 p.m. while the Antipolo tournament also take on UPIS at 11 a.m.

BY TOP CHOICE at San Lazaro LT

SPORTS

SHAKE Pinatay (right) reacts as photographers ask him to pose with Manny Pacquiao at a news conference in Beverly Hills on Thursday/ AP

Mosley tells bettors: Make money with me

LOS ANGELES—Shane Mosley fancies his chances of causing an upset when he challenges Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao for the latter's WBO welterweight title on May 7 in Las Vegas.

Mosley, the boxer underdog in the fight set at the MGM Grand Arena, said Pacquiao's aggressive style suits him fine—a factor that could turn betting favorable.

"A lot of people are going to be rich, a lot of people are going to make money from this fight," Mosley said with a smile during a news conference he and Pacquiao held jointly at Beverly Hills Hotel on Thursday.

"The people that follow boxing know. The people that don't, they might bet the wrong way."

Mutual respect flowed both ways, however, as Mosley and Pacquiao discussed their title fight in front of a packed audience.

The two fighters are locomotive duels opponents and contrasting approach to the ring, and also for their reluctance to indulge in the pre-bout trash talking so common in the sport.

"Manny is a special fighter because he goes out there and he puts 100 percent into what he is doing," said three-division world champion Mosley, smartly dressed in a pale green suit.

"People, they love it and they see it when he is out there working in the ring. He always tries to fight, tries to win and tries to knock the guy out. He has a love of the sport.

"We are very similar and I think that's what is going to make this fight very exciting. I want to win, he wants to win and it will be a fight to the finish."

Pacquiao (52-3-2, 38 KOs), an eight-time world champion in an unprecedented eight weight classes, agreed.

"I am excited about this matchup," said the 32-year-old, who wore jeans and sported a new look with his hair cropped short in his cut, he said a silver cross dangling from his left ear.

"We both like to keep coming forward. I have to train hard because I don't want to disappoint ...the people who will watch the fight."

Pacquiao, who recorded a ruthless points victory over Mexican Antonio Margarito in his most recent fight in November, has been installed as an odds-on favorite by Las Vegas bookmakers for the May showdown at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao's avowed contact Freddie Roach scoffs at the notion that his fighter have an easy task against an American opponent who has a less awful a draw in his last two fights.

"We would be lucky to underestimate them and we will not do that, I promise you," Roach said in front of a packed room.

Mosley (46-6, 1 with 39 KOs), like Pacquiao reinvented for his bout and five years, believes he suffered in his last two bouts against Antonio Margarito their ultra-defensive style.

He dropped a unanimous decision to the undefeated Floyd Mayweather Jr. in May and had a draw with Sergio Mora in September.

"It was very frustrating to fight guys that were real defensive, especially with Mora who was running around a lot," Mosley, 38, said. Mosley thanked Pacquiao for taking the fight. "He fights all the best [opponents], Mosley said. "This is one of the biggest fights of my career, if not the biggest." Reuters

SMART GOLD

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Mandela big Pacman fan

MANDELA

LOS ANGELES—Former South African President Nelson Mandela has fully recovered from a recent health scare and will shortly meet/see Manny Pacquiao, the next world title defense, his daughter and ex-Thursday.

Mandela, a boxer boxer in his youth, is a good friend of Muhammad Ali and has always kept an eagle eye on contemporary fighters, according to his daughter Gaule Mandela.

"My father is still very much aware of who the fighters are," Zinzhi said after Pacquiao and American Shane Mosley held a news conference on Thursday.

"I was just telling both Shane Mosley and Manny Pacquiao ... my father can say to watch a fight [as television] and he still loves the sport with a passion."

Mandela, 92, started boxing while studying at Fort Hare University in Eastern Cape and he famously doubted himself locked here while spending 27 years in prison for his role in the struggle against white minority rule.

"I grew up knowing that my father was a boxer," said Zinzhi, who is in Los Angeles to promote Mandela's 93rd on July 18.

She said Mandela was particularly impressed by Pacquiao, who went a step in his national congress last year and is revered for his humanitarian work.

"My father has a respect for anybody like Manny who stands up and takes a stand and is willing to serve his people, because that is what his [Mandela] represents," Zinzhi said. Reuters

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lhuillier

NEW ESTRELLA-PANTALEON BRIDGE
The Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge connecting the cities of Makati and Mandaluyong was opened to motorists yesterday. The inaugural was attended by Vice President Jejomar Binay, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson, Makati Mayor Erwin Jejomar Binay and Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos.

Ramp caves in

No casualties, but Eton Centris contractor takes full blame for building accident along Edsa

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A PORTION of the second floor of a building under construction inside the Eton Centris complex along Edsa near the Quezon Avenue intersection in Quezon City was cut into two when a steel beam support caved in.

Barnaby Real, a spokesperson of Filarchitects/Rockwell Inc., the contractor of Eton Centris Cyberpod 2, said the Metro was asking full responsibility for the collapse that took place around 7 a.m.

"The ramp split while we were pouring cement. One of the steel beams holding up the under construction ramp gave way during the pouring of cement," Real told reporters.

At least 80 square meters of the flooring were pulled apart during the incident, but no one was hurt and operations resumed, and after a brief disruption, he said.

Real did not answer questions on what could have caused the cave in but said an investigation was underway. He said a 12-story structure is being built in the area.

"No one was hurt and the operation continues including the repair of the floor that collapsed," said DOTC Station 10 commander Insp. Cilsonito Mendiola.

The Eton Centris complex is also owned by Eton properties, owner of the building in Makati City where 18 workers were killed in collapse of an overhanded gondola at a construction site on April.

The Makati police yesterday filed charges against construction officials at the Eton Residences also in the city.

Policemen, firemen, and a rescue team from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority who rushed to the construction site were denied entry by the security guards. A team from the Department of Labor who wanted to check the condition of the workers was also denied entry.

Only the city fire marshal, Chief Supt. Bobby Dubiosis, who rushed to the area after 30 minutes eclipsed entry was allowed to enter the construction area.

Two labor groups tabled on the Department of Labor and Employment yesterday is quickly inspect the site.

"The DOLE through its labor inspectors must immediately conduct safety inspection on the Eton Centris worksite to determine whether safety standards were followed or if there were violations which pleases the lives of workers at risk," the Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development

Makati police official loses anticar theft unit post

By Tina G. Santos

THE CHIEF of the Makati Police anticar theft unit was removed from his post yesterday following the series of stolen car incidents in the city within a month.

Senior Insp. Rueber Sagui-Reyna was ordered relieved by Makati Police chief Senior Supt. Pinkan Bomboveo.

Supplanting who was transferred to the vacant station was replaced by Senior Insp. Ferdinand Inocian.

The last carjacking incident in Makati happened Thursday morning in Barangay Dangkal.

Four armed men forcibly took a Toyota Hi-Ace (2TU 1160) pick-up carrying a Honda motorcycle between 4 and 5 a.m.

An initial investigation showed that the pickup was taken by the suspects just as its driver, Nelson Batallon, parked it inside the garage of his employer's house at the corner of Gen. Malvar and JP. Reyes Streets.

Batallon was about to close the gate when the suspects, armed with short firearms, appeared from behind him and demanded that he give them the key to the pickup.

Batallon, who was taken by the suspects along with the vehicle, was later dropped off in Tondo, Manila, where he managed to seek help from a motorist before reporting the incident to the authorities.

Investigators said reports that Batallon identified two of the four suspects who attacked him through the police's photo gallery of criminals.

He added that they were also looking deeper into the driver's claim that the suspects had told him that they were just ordered by an enemy of his employer to take the vehicle as an act of revenge.

"But the suspects identified by the driver from photos were known members of a car theft syndicate," Supplanon added.

Last Feb. 7, car thieves forcibly took with them a Mitsubishi Montero (UH 3128) from its driver, Jonathan Encena, 41, in front of his employer's house in Barangay Olympus. The vehicle's owner was identified as Nicky Pecia, an employee of television station GMA 7.

Supplanon said they were looking into the possible involvement of the Dominguez gang-ping group in the PAL 1 incident.

Last Jan. 19, carjackers also took the Toyota Land Cruiser of chef and restaurateur Margarita Fores, a scion of Sen. Blas Ople, while it was parked along Dela Rosa Street in Legaspi Village in Makati City.

Supplanon said members of a carjacking syndicate who were recently arrested in Cavite province by Pasay policemen were allegedly behind the theft of Fores' vehicle.

METROBRIEFS

DBP employee shot dead in Makati

A 51-YEAR-OLD employee of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding suspects Friday morning in Makati City. Senior Supt. Fredan Bombaes, Makati Police chief, said Rodolfo Hernandez, an administrative services assistant at the DBP's legal office, was shot in front of Barangay Bangkal, Makati City, dead on the spot due to multiple gunshot wounds. The victim, who was driving his car on his way to work, was cruising along Kalayaan Avenue near Zapote Street in Barangay Olympia when the suspects attacked around 7:45 a.m. Case investigator SPO2 Leandro Cendaña of Makati Police said the motive of assailants were intact, prompting them to theorize that Hernandez was not the motive behind the incident. Bombaes yesterday ordered the relief of Chief Insp. Librado Bacsain, station commander of police community precinct 1 which has jurisdiction over the area where the ambush happened. "We have a standing policy that if a crime involving suspects killing in action is committed, the precinct commander in the area will be immediately relieved," Bombaes said. Bacsain was replaced by Chief Insp. Jonathan Villamor. **Tina G. Santos**

Fitness activity at Ayala Triangle Park

THE MAKATI City Department of Public Safety has advised motorists to take alternate routes as some streets in the Central Business District will be closed to vehicular traffic on Sunday following the launching of a weekly fitness activity in the area. The activity dubbed as "Thursdays at Bethlehem/Ayala Legaspi," will be held at the Ayala Triangle Park on Sunday and every Sunday thereafter, at 6 a.m. Ayala Avenue, from Paseo de Roxas to Legaspi to Herrera Street will be closed, while the opposite lane (bound towards Edsa) from Herrera Street to Edsa will be open to two-way traffic. Paseo de Roxas, the lane from Ayala Avenue to Makati Avenue fronting the Park will be closed, while the opposite lane will be passable for both ways; and Makati Avenue, the lane from Paseo de Roxas to Ayala Avenue will be closed, and the opposite lane (bound towards Paseo de Roxas) will be open to two-way traffic. Motorists are advised to expect heavy traffic and take alternative routes to avoid the activity area. A joint undertaking by the city government and Ayala Land Inc., the activity aims to promote a culture of wellness among constituents of Makati and other neighboring localities, while at the same time provide a venue for meaningful interaction between key city officials and members of the business community. **Tina G. Santos**

Garden club to hold exhibit at Ayala Alabang

THE ANNUAL Alabang Village Garden Club will be holding its annual garden show and exhibit next week, featuring various events for gardening enthusiasts and the public as well. On its 17th year, the event will run for two weeks from Feb. 14 to 27 at the Nanny Park inside Ayala Alabang Village. Among the activities to be held at the garden show are a landscaping competition, exhibits of orchids and ikebana, as well as workshops on making use of plants. Plants, commemoratives and gardening material suppliers will also be putting up stalls and selling their wares at the garden show which is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bota Signa medical mission on Sunday

DOMATOM's residents and community members of Barangay UP Campus in Diliman, Quezon City, will benefit from the fifth in a series of joint medical, medical and dental services offered for free by the 5th Tito Delos Santos Medical Mission of the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity of Southern California on Sunday at the Palma Hall Parking Area in UP Diliman from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community members seeking medical and dental attention may register with the UP Campus Barangay Office. Some residents may sign up with their domiciary officers or with any member of the UP Beta Sigma. The mission has the full support of UP Chancellor Sergio Cao. The Novaliches Dental Professionals Inc. and socially responsible corporate donors and local government officials' Members of UP Beta Sigma Southern California led by Grand Priestly Eliot Bravo are in town to oversee the conduct of mission operations.

Senate hearing a costume ball

I HAVE it on very good author-ity that the Court of Appeals is going to exclude former Gen. Ronali Adapatanan of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) from the Maguindanao massacre case.

If that is true, those justices who are members of the division that plans to drop the multiple murder raps against Ronali Adapatanan are courting the people's ire.

They should know that outcries can high-during the hearings of the massacre at the Quezon City regional trial court.

Ronali is the brother of Andal Adapatanan Jr., who allegedly led his men in butchering members of his family's political enemy, the Mangudadatus, and media persons who were with them.

Ronali was with Andal Jr. and Andal Sr., former governor of Maguindanao, when they planned the massacre, according to witnesses.

* * *

If it's true that the appellate court is about to get Gen. Ronali Adapatanan off the hook in the Maguindanao massacre, the question that will be in people's minds is not "why?" but "how much?"

And how much would it take for Andal Jr. and Andal Sr. to be found "not guilty" by the lower court or the supreme court?

Many court decisions in this country are for sale to the highest bidders.

Is there really justice in this country?

* * *

Stepin who voted for Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV are now beginning to realize the folly of their decision.

Their idol, who portrayed himself as an uppercut marxist, showed his true colors during the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing. An arrogant, egotistical bully.

When Reyes, who was 22 years Trillanes' senior at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), responded to serious issues that he slammed off-the-cuff remarks from the witness stand, Trillanes cut him off.

The following was the verbal exchange between Reyes and Trillanes:

Reyes: I'm just trying to present my reputation here. I have served this government for 40 years.

Trillanes: So, so, so, you don't have any reputation to protect. I believe this is the time of reckoning ... You better tell your story because ...

Even if Trillanes holds a very high position, he should respect his elders.

The age gap between Reyes and the young senator is so wide Reyes could have been Trillanes' father.

Trillanes was not raised well by his parents.

* * *

If you get invited to the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing, you can come in casual (sleeveless shirt) and shorts.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile was wearing a leather jacket when he was grilling Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, while Sen. Jinggoy Estrada wore a jogging suit when he interrogated Col. George Rabusa.

If the senators confronted you for wearing a hat needlessly (underwear) in the august hall, you could reply, "Bakit kayo? (What about you?)"

In other words, don't wear a coat and tie in a summer ball.

* * *

Commission on Audit Chair Grace Pulido Tan said recently all the auditors in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

What's impending now is an exercise to the exposed coddling of the GMA regime with military camps, lifers and budget officers in skimming off funds AFP funds.

Villar said he will replace AFP and PNP auditors with people assigned to government corporations or controlled corporations.

Bus firm's license cancelled; 3 others suspended

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has cancelled the license of another bus company for participating in the transport strike last November.

LTFRB board member Jesus Manuel Isorena said the franchises of three more companies were suspended for six months.

This is the third batch of sanctions handed out by the LTFRB to bus companies that refused to deploy their units last Nov. 15 to protest oil deregulation.

The board had also suspended the franchises of 11 companies and 10 units, and cancelled the franchises of seven other bus companies that also joined the strike last year. Among the bus firms were Philippine Contractors Liner Inc., which is owned by singer Claire de la Fuente.

Isorena said the suspension of the franchise of Rainbow Express Inc. for the company's OFW way also suspended for six months for joining the November strike that left thousands of commuters stranded. The firm has 25 units.

Isorena said Rainbow Express claimed that their buses suddenly experienced mechanical failures. However, the company was unable to show proof of this.

Since the start of the year, the LTFRB has cancelled franchises of several other bus companies that also joined the strike last year. Among the bus firms were Philippine Contractors Liner Inc., which is owned by singer Claire de la Fuente.

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Ramp caves in; no casualties, but ...

From page A12

said in a statement.

The QC-based Assumption Institute for Labor and Research (Dilar), which sent a team to the site, also made a similar appeal as it criticized the building's owners for "person-pinching at the expense of workers' safety."

"Even if no injury or death resulted from the accident, the DOLE must still inspect the site if work can continue safely," Noel Colina, RMN-643 executive director said.

"How many more accidents must happen before these finally receive the proper attention to workers' health and safety over economic gain?" added Dilar executive director Anna Leah Escriba, in an e-mailed statement.

"A reliable source has told us that workers at the Eton Centris construction are not receiving the required minimum wage in the Metro Manila and are non-SSS members," she said.

The Social Security System also sent out inspectors to construction sites and other high-risk work areas to ensure workers have SSS coverage following multiple deaths in the Makati accident last month.

Emmanuel Z. Ledesma Jr., SSS president and chief executive, said anyone officers have been directed to make door-to-door visits of workplaces and construction sites to check if the workers have SSS coverage and that companies, contractors and sub-contractors were up-to-date in remitting contributions payments.

Reacting to news reports that Grandsway had no building permit for the project, Rau said the permit had been filed last year and is still under process at the Quezon City engineer's office.

With reports from Jerome M. Aning, C.E. Santos and Ramon P. Domingo

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Citizen's Call
Your Step of Affections and Recollections
to make up of stories
Your stories. Tell us all about it.
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• Garbage dumped on your street outside your door?
• Street signage loomer on the street where you live?
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INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casco

US priests charged with raping boys

PHILADELPHIA—Two Roman Catholic priests, a former priest and a Catholic school teacher were charged on Thursday with raping young boys, while a former high-ranking church official was accused of transferring problem priests to new parishes without warning anyone of prior sex-abuse complaints.

The charges stemmed from a two-year grand jury investigation into priest abuse in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the second such inquiry in the city.

In the view, if not unprecedented, move, the grand jury charged Msgr. William Lynn with endangering children in his role as secretary for clergy under former Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua.

Lynn, 61, had a duty to prevent children in the five-county archdiocese and refer priests with known sexual problems for rehabilitation or prosecution, District Atty. Seth Williams said in announcing the charges.

"He turned his back to parishioners and issued a blind eye to many priests without telling parents or principals that they were pedophiles," Williams said.

Lynn's defense lawyer said the two undercover cases he worked on supply immunity. Lynn did not have any children under his care, he also questioned the merits of the cases, which carry a maximum 14-year prison term.

"We certainly don't concede for a moment that he knew he was putting children at risk," lawyer Thomas Bergstrom told The Associated Press.

While American dioceses have paid hundreds of millions of dollars to abuse victims to settle civil lawsuits in recent years, criminal charges in clergy sex-abuse cases have been rare.

People who were molested as children often wait for decades before gaining the courage to come forward—usually long after the statute of limitations for criminal charges has run out. A small number of accused clergy have been prosecuted and convicted since 2002, when the clergy sex abuse crisis erupted in the Archdiocese of Boston. Attorneys for bishop or church administrator have been taken to task over their failures to protect children from accused priests.

MSGR. WILLIAM Lynn

Lynn is named prominently in a scathing 2005 grand jury report that found 63 priests in the Philadelphia Archdiocese had been credibly accused of child sexual assault over several decades while local church officials turned a blind eye. Frustrated prosecutors then concluded, though, that they could not file any criminal charges because the statute of limitations on the crimes had expired.

Pennsylvania has since revised laws to give child sex assault victims more time to report abuse, while the archdiocese under Cardinal Justin Rigali has pledged to refer credible complaints to law enforcement.

The current case, related by the archdiocese, involves two victims, one of them a boy who was allegedly abused by two priests and his sixth-grade teacher at St. Jerome parish, starting when he was a 10-year-old altar boy in 1996.

The first Charles Engelhardt, now 66, and the first Edward Avery, now 68, both raped the boy in the church sacristy after Mass, the report charged. Engelhardt also allegedly gave the boy wine and showed him pornography. He later told Avery about the encounters, prompting Avery to demand that the boy perform a striptease act after Mass, followed by oral and anal sex, the report said.

Bernard Shero, 49, his fifth-grade teacher, took the next step, raped him during a ride home from school, then made him walk home, the report said.

The victim, later plagued by many abuse victims by depression and substance abuse, reported the assaults to police in 2008.

Avery had been on the church's radar since at least 1992. That's when a 29-year-old student victim told the archdiocese that Avery, who frequently moonlighted as a disc jockey at city nightclubs, had abused him in the 1970s and 1980s. AP

Reports: Dutch cardinal shielded pedophile priest

UTRECHT—The second abuse crisis in the Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands deepened on Thursday when seven reports said one of its senior figures had shielded a pedophile priest.

Reports in three news media outlets increased the pressure on the cardinal, Adrianus Simonis, the retired archbishop of Utrecht, who notified last month in a written to a legal action taken by one of almost 2,000 people who have said they were victims of abuse.

The crisis in the Netherlands is another setback for the Roman Catholic Church, which has been struggling with sexual abuse allegations from Ireland and Belgium to the United States.

Simonis caused scene abortion in the Netherlands last March, when he was asked on television about the hundreds of complaints surfacing against the Church and replied in German rather than Dutch, saying "We have to wait for the graveyard"—or "We know nothing about it."

The phrase, which is associated with Nazi excuses after World War II, drew uncomfortable parallels for the Church, which has been accused of covering up the issue of sexual abuse.

The reports on Thursday, by Radio Netherlands Worldwide, the newspaper NRC Handelsblad and the Dutch television program "Nieuwsuur," said the cardinal was told by the bishop of Rotterdam at the time, Philippe Bär, that during the 1960s a priest had sexually abused boys in a Rotterdam swimming pool. The priest suspected of abuse was not named in the news reports.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Simonis said the priest had been allowed to continue working in a parish only after undergoing lengthy therapy and on the basis of a psychological report.

If new evidence about the case emerged that cast doubt on the decision, he said, that would be regrettable. WITH REPORTS FROM AP

Taliban directed bombings from Afghan jail

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—A cell of suicide bombers active in Kabul was run for three years by a Taliban commander operating from inside the city's main prison, Afghan officials said on Thursday.

Another suicide bomber self-detonated young men from religious schools and got them high on a drug that made them energized by the handlers who were trying to persuade them to commit murders.

Those were among the highlights of an extraordinary news conference on Thursday by Afghanistan's intelligence service, the National Directorate of Security. It was meant to expose the workings of the two cells, but raised nearly as many questions as it answered.

Not least of them was how Mullah Ismail, the jailed Taliban commander, was able to run his network from Pul-e-Charkhi, a maximum security prison in Kabul, which is staffed by Afghan police and military officials with US trainers and advisers.

"From inside the Pul-e-Charkhi prison he was appointing people and giving them targets and instructions for this and do this and do that," said Lutfullah Mashal, a spokesman for the National Directorate of Security spokesperson, Lutfullah Mashal.

"Most of the terrorist and suicide attacks in Kabul were planned from inside this prison by this man," Mashal asserted.

Mashal played a videotaped confession of his subordinate, Ismail, saying that he had organized the suicide bombing of the Nawa Supermarket in Kabul on Jan. 28, which killed 14 people. His confederate, Mohammad Ehsa, who was said to have visited Ismail in prison to take his orders, confessed in person at the news conference to his part in the bombing.

There was no way to independently verify the authenticity of the confessions. Under, many detained by coercion or torture are common in Afghanistan. A request to interview the would-be suicide bombers was turned down.

The authorities' investigation of this case led them to a second suicide bomb cell, that one with eight bombers being readied to attack US forces in Kabul and Logar provinces. Five of its members, including a male bomber operating as a transporter and two youthful would-be bombers, confessed to their roles at the news conference.

Both cells, the authorities said, were part of Ghulbuddin Hekmatyar's Taliban-allied group based in Pakistan.

The two would-be bombers, both Afghans, were 20 and the other 17, said they had been recruited from madrasas, religious schools where their families had sent them to study in Pakistan's tribal areas, where extremists are active.

"Our people go to Pakistan for religious instruction, and they send them back to us as suicide bombers," Mashal said.

Mohmadullah, the 17-year-old from Logar province, related his recruitment in a madrasa in Miram Shah, a town in the North Waziristan region of Pakistan. He said he and his other recruits were given a intravenous injections in both arms of a drug that was said to relax but of unknown composition. "When we we got those injections, whatever they said me felt happy and loved to hear what they said, I loved to listen to them, and wrote we would do whatever they told me to do."

What followed was a succession of trips from one mullah to another in Pakistan, where they were shown Taliban propaganda videos of fights with desertions, in between religious indoctrination featuring long sermons from the Quran, Mohmadullah said. Like many Afghans, he has only one name. AP/WP

AN AFGHAN girl carries a sack containing waste paper, cartons and small pieces of wood near her head in one as tied in Kabul on Feb. 8.

Hackers in China said to have hit oil companies

BEIJING—Hackers operating from China stole sensitive information from Western oil companies, a US security firm reported on Thursday, adding to computer attacks against Internet businesses that traced to the country.

The report by McAfee Inc. did not identify the companies but said the "coordinated, covert and targeted" attacks began in November 2009 and targeted companies of oil and gas companies in the United States, Taiwan, Greece and Kazakhstan. It said the attackers stole information on operations, bidding for oil fields and financing.

"We have identified the tools, techniques and network activities used in these continuing attacks...which we have dubbed Night Dragon—as originating primarily in China," said the report.

In the report did not offer evidence that the attacks were anything other than the standard fare of corporate espionage that plagues businesses around the world, which the US and China have both accused each other of being deeply involved in.

The fact that oil companies were targeted may speak more to the value of their inside information than any attempt to cause damage to pipelines, McAfee added the attack methods "unsophisticated," but said the culprits were persistent. They may have been inside the networks for years.

"It looked to me like the traditional hack-to-steal vulnerability stuff," said Josh Shaul, vice president of product management at Application Security Inc., a New York-based database security company whose analysis that smash incidents in McAfee's research. Application Security counts energy companies, including oil firms, among its clients. "It all seemed to me like someone trying to get ahead in the oil and industry rather than doing something more nefarious."

The intruders were prolific in their purloining, searching files including configurations for the oil companies' control systems, for Dmitri Alperovitch, vice president of threat research for McAfee, said they didn't appear to be trying to figure out how to 'blow up a pipeline or destroy equipment.

"I got a very strong sense that was not their goal," he said. "They expressed a much stronger interest in financial information." AP

DNA tests could provide startling proof of incest

LONDON—Scientists conducting DNA tests on disabled children may inadvertently make startling discoveries of incest, sparking a range of ethical dilemmas that require guidance, doctors say.

In a letter to the medical journal Lancet published on Friday, Melissa Parker of the London College of Medicine in Hendon and colleagues point out several thorny issues DNA experts may confront when performing genetic tests on children with developmental or intellectual problems.

Scientists sometimes analyze the DNA of disabled children looking for clues to understand their underlying disorders. That may lead to aforementioned information that identifies the children as having been conceived by two close relatives.

The authors say scientists doing such tests could legally be required to report that information to authorities in cases where the mother conceived as a result.

"Many cases of previously undetermined incest are likely to be identified in patients with various disabilities," Bennett said these offer ed Reuters Health.

"Clinicians who uncover a likely incestuous relationship could be legally required to report it to child protection services and potentially the police. They could be upholding the pregnancy might have been the product of abuse.

But they said in cases where the mother is an adult the doctor's responsibility to report the issues might be less clear.

DNA tests are often used to prove abuse in incest cases. In Europe's most infamous incest crime, Austrian Josef Fritzl was found guilty in 2009 of locking his daughter in a dungeon for 24 years and fathering seven children with her. He is serving a life sentence.

Bennett and colleagues suggested that institutions establish committees to discuss the legal and ethical issues surrounding DNA testing. They pointed to guidelines for developed by American and European genetics organizations. AP

Fashion world feverish over Kate's bridal gown

LONDON—The fashion world is desperate to know who Kate Middleton will pull to design her wedding dress when she marries Prince William in April—and if the palace's silence is only fueling the love-ish speculation.

"It would be better for the designer that people did not know who it was," said Sasha Millson, a fashion blogger known as "Lilywood calls it." "Once they announce the name of the designer, that designer's life is going to be hell."

The van Gin case flows decades ago when David and Elizabeth Emanuel designed the dress for the wedding dress of William's mother, Princess Diana, when she married Prince Charles.

"They were stalked, literally," Millson says.

The time around, palace officials are getting nothing away as the big day, Kate, 29, and her 28-year-old royal fiancee have both agreed to keep some of the details of their big day on April 29 course.

But in the absence of any official information, speculation is rife.

A photograph of Kate's dress and mid-her coming out of the London shop of designer Bruce Oldfield had a month was enough to rouse the paparazzi to camp outside the boutique day and night in hope of spotting the bride-to-be.

Oldfield was one of Diana's favorite designers and made the wedding dresses of Queen Rania of Jordan and of Fergie socialite Jemima Goldsmith when she married Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan—but he is keeping quiet.

British press speculation meanwhile has centred almost entirely major British designers from John Galliano to Stella McCartney and even Victoria Beckham, although Wilkin Sobieski such a big name would overshadow the groom too much.

However, there a little chance that an inexperienced newcomer will be asked to design the year's most talked-about dress, and sneaky hands such as Philippa Lepley, Jenny Packham, Amanda Wakeley or Jasper Conran—all of them well known for their bridal gowns—are also likely candidates.

"Whatever designs this dress needs a lot of experience," said Fiona Fitzsimmons, a fashion expert at Surrey College of Arts. magazine group Condé Nast International.

"They need experience to design a beautiful wedding dress, that's going to stand up all day long, that's going to look amazing when photographed for newspapers, on television, that is not going to be dwarfed by Westminster Abbey." AFP

BRITAIN'S Prince William and his fiancee Kate Middleton posing for photographers to mark their engagement on Nov. 16, 2010.

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Ayala Land to redevelop UP property

Firms says P3-B mixed-use complex to be ready by 2013

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY GIANT Ayala Land Inc. has won the right to redevelop the 7.4-hectare site of the UP Integrated School in Diliman, Quezon City, into a P3-billion mixed-use complex.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ALI said the University of the Philippines had awarded it a 35-year lease, renewable for another 25 years.

The project will involve the construction of a retail establishment with 50,000 square meters of gross leasable area and a combination of headquarters and business process outsourcing-type building with an estimated 45,000 square meters of space for leasing. The project is scheduled to break ground within the year and completed by the fourth quarter of 2013.

UP nominated a public bidding last November for the relocation and building of a new UP-IS within the main campus as well as the work

AYALA /B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Feb. 10, 2011

43.820

STOCK MARKET

Feb. 10, 2011

10.84

Bargain-hunting lifts stocks

LOCAL SHARES bounced back yesterday from the previous day's bloodbath as value hunters started to pick up some oversold stocks.

The main index Philippine Stock Exchange index added 1.084 points or 0.29 percent to 3,743.16. For the whole week, the index was still down 3.1 percent due to the previous days' sell-off.

The rebound was led by the holding firm counter—seen as a proxy of expectations about the economy—as the index Tuesday. The property counter was likewise in the red.

On the other hand, the financial and non-financial counters tumbled more than 1 percent.

Value turnover was heavy at P7.31 billion due to a large block sale of Alliance Global Group Inc. involving 85.58 million shares at P29.5 each or a total of P2.5 billion.

Despite the overall index decline, advancers (411) were edged out by decliners (80) while 62 stocks were unchanged. Foreign investors remained net sellers of local equities to the tune of

BENJAMIN MUYRONG /B1

Aboitiz allots $1.5B for Subic, Davao plants

By Amy R. Remo

ABOITIZ POWER Corp. is spending $1.5 billion (roughly P66 billion) to put up two coal-fired facilities in Subic and Davao to provide the area's unmet additional capacities by 2014.

In a briefing yesterday, APC president and CEO Emmanuel I. Aboitiz emphasized that the company was pushing through with plans to build a 600-MW coal-fired facility in Subic, which is expected to cost $1 billion, and another similar-sized facility in Davao.

The planned capacities were much higher than initial plans as APC initially intended to have the Subic coal plant generating only 300 MW and the Davao facility, 150 MW.

The APC chief said this was a good time to start building new power plants again given the country's growing demand for electricity. It is also expected that power supply may again tighten by 2013 and 2014, unless new power facilities add capacities to the main grids.

As such, APC targets to have the two coal power plants in operation by 2014.

In Subic, APC has signed joint venture with Taiwan Cogen International Corp. to form the Aseaba Peninsula Energy Inc., the vehicle company that will put up the clean coal facility in the area.

Aboitiz had disclosed that the company was finalizing its engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract with Sumitomo Heavy Industries. APC expects to start construction of the Subic coal facility within the year.

According to Aboitiz, APC would use the flu-ified bed technology for the power plant for cleaner emissions and to give the company the flexibility in terms of the fuel resources it could use, whether it be coal or biomass. Initially, APC planned to source coal from Indonesia and locally listed Semirara Mining Corp.

With its coal-fed plant in Davao, AEC targets

ABOITIZ /B2

SM property unit posts 62% jump in net profit to ₱3B

Company pre-sold 10,338 units in 2010

By Doris C. Dumlao

SM DEVELOPMENT CORP. (SMDC), the property arm of retail conglomerate SM Investments Corp., reported a 62% increase in net profit last year to ₱3 billion on higher revenues from its real estate operations.

Net profit from real estate operations went up 66 percent to ₱2.6 billion from a year ago while consolidated revenues amounted to ₱10 billion, up 34 percent year-on-year.

"The strong results achieved by SMDC in 2010 attest to the proven viability of its business model, which is to provide high-quality residences in strategic locations at affordable price points," company vice chair and chief executive officer Hans T. Sy reported yesterday.

Cash flow as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) amounted to ₱5.7 billion, or an EBITDA margin of 48 percent.

The company realized ₱9.1 billion in revenues from real estate operations during the year, up 73 percent. SMDC attributed this partly to the further completion and turnover of more than 4,000 of its residential brands: Bel-Air, Grand and MetPlace.

"Favorable economic conditions prevailing in the Philippines during the year also supported SMDC's positive performance," the company said.

The domestic economy grew 7.3 percent last year, the fastest pace in 34 years.

For the whole of 2010, SMDC reported that it had pre-sold 10,338 residential units worth about ₱21.6 billion. Compared with the same period in 2009, the number of units pre-sold increased by 129 percent.

The company ended the year with total assets of ₱42.6 billion, 11% percent higher than a year ago. Total liabilities stood at ₱17.9 billion, while stockholders' equity amounted to ₱24.7 billion.

SMDC has a current portfolio of 14 residential projects, 13 of which are in Metro Manila and one in Tagaytay City in the province of Cavite.

With many of its residential projects nearly sold out, SMDC plans to unveil at least five new projects this year.

Aboitiz unit joins global stock index

SHARES OF Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. surged 11 percent yesterday after the company was included in the MSCI Global Value Index, a basket of stocks across the globe closely monitored by global funds.

Shares of AEV finished at ₱57 each from the previous day's ₱52, thereby soaring closer to its 52-week high of ₱61.50 a share.

The Aboitiz group's holding firm thus outpaced the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange index, which added a modest 18.84 points or 0.29 percent to finish at 5,749.15 yesterday.

MSCI, along with Power Grid Corp. of India, was added to the MSCI Global Value Index in its latest quarterly review, the results of which were announced Thursday night. Companies included in this weekly watched MSCI index usually generate more interest among global fund managers.

Right after the announcement of its inclusion in the index, there were 19 billion worth of AEV stocks crossed in two special block sales at ₱55.24 a share.

Asked about the block transactions, AEV president Erramon Aboitiz said these did not involve any of AEV's affiliate companies.

"We're very happy that we're included in the MSCI and we expect that this lead to more interest in our stock and hopefully more following," Aboitiz said.

He estimated that about 12 to 15 percent of AEV's stocks were currently held by foreign investors.

MSCI, which is part of the country's main share index, has about 52 percent of its shares held by the public. It has a weight of 6.12 percent on the local benchmark stock index.

It has a market capitalization of ₱355.89 billion based on yesterday's close. — Doris C. Dumlao

Globe sees slight growth this year

By Paola E. Pantaleon

ASIA'S LEAD Globe Telecom Inc. expects 2011 to be a better year as it aims to reinforce growing in market share amid stiffer competition in the industry.

The company said it would build on the progress it made in the third and fourth quarters of 2010, when Globe added the most number of new subscribers it had in the last three years.

"We are confident that we have the momentum and hopefully, there will be no gap between our profit this year compared with last year," Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu told reporters.

"We had decent gains in our postpaid segment. The prepaid base increased nicely and TM [Touch Mobile] has been growing consistently," he said. Cu said the company would likely hold the performance of the country's telecommunications industry, which is expected to grow slightly this year.

The company earlier reported a 22 percent drop in net profit for the whole of 2010 to ₱9.7 billion from ₱12.6 billion the year before as stiff competition in the industry put pressure on profit margins.

This year, the company said it would spend ₱18 billion to build up its network and increase its capacity to be able to handle growing traffic.

Aboitiz allots . . .

From page B1

to be able to service more areas in Southern Mindanao.

"There is currently an imbalance in power generation. Most of the facilities are all up north [of Mindanao], so it makes sense to put more capacity down south," Aboitiz said.

The proposed coal facility in Davao would allow relieve Mindanao of its overdependence on hydropower, which has seriously resulted power supply reliability on the island. As such, there was a need to look for other power sources to ensure the stability of supply in Mindanao.

One such source would be coal, which, Aboitiz said, would be the best for generating electricity from the standpoint of reliability, affordability and safety.

The planned Subic and Davao coal facilities were only two of the many power projects that APC had lined up over the next several years. Other projects also disclosed were hydropower projects in Mindanao, Aboitiz added.

With these projects, Aboitiz said the company was expected to allocate about ₱500 million annually over the next few years for power generation projects alone.

Ayala Land to redevelop UP property

From page B1

redevelopment of the current UPIS site on Katipunan Ave. into a mixed-use facility by way of lease. The ₱5-billion capital outlay committed by ALI included the cost of the UPIS relocation. The terms of the lease were not disclosed.

"The company envisions the project as a University Estate concept consisting of mixed-use retail and office components, with first emphasis on academic support facilities," the disclosure said. "This will be the first of its kind in the country to reflect a strong collaboration between academe and industry."

ALI president Antonino Aquino said the new development would be similar to the existing UP Ayala Land Technohub but with a larger retail component.

The company said it saw a good opportunity to use the site to service the needs of students, office workers and residents in the immediate vicinity.

In separate disclosure, ALI also announced a 28 percent growth in its net profit last year to a record ₱5.46 billion on higher earnings from its residential, shopping mall, office and allied businesses.

It said that for the fourth quarter alone, its net profit amounted to ₱1.52 billion. That was a new record for core quarterly earnings, making it the seventh consecutive quarter of positive earnings growth for the property company.

Robust growth in revenues across all major businesses, particularly real estate and hotels, resulted in a 24 percent jump in 2010 consolidated revenues to ₱97.83 billion from a year ago. Margins of the residential, shopping center and office leasing businesses continued to improve, the company said.

"Ayala Land had a banner year in 2010 mainly because of the strong performance of our major business lines and aided by right and sound business decisions on its part," Aquino said.

"We achieved record high residential sales and our shopping center and office leasing properties continued to do very well. We were also more aggressive in launching projects all over the country compared with previous years. Overall, we have exceeded our targets and made very good progress toward our longer-term goals," he said.

On the expenditure side, ALI said improved cost control measures brought in general and administrative expenses down to 8 percent of revenues in 2010 from 9 percent a year ago.

Bargain-hunting lifts stocks

From page B1

PSEi outbreaks the day.

Investors loaded up on shares of SM Group, SM Investments, SM Prime, Ayala Land, Aboitiz Power, Empire East Land and Cosco Asia.

On the other hand, the market sold down Metrobank, PLDT, Banco de Oro, Security Bank, Metro Pacific Investments, Ayala, Philippine Long Distance, San Miguel, Petron, Atlas Mining and Universal Robina.

Banco de Oro Unibank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said risk investors reinstated the key themes for the week, with the property and financial sectors leading the decline on rising interest rates and a possible slowdown in loan growth.

He said sustainable economic growth and rising inflation scenarios remained to be the dominant factors in the sell-off in the regional markets.

"Short-wise, the recent break below the 5,800 level has mentioned in the previous weeks] implies further room of the 5,800-5,850 support levels. However, with the big drop this week, a technical bounce may occur but could be limited toward 5,800-5,850 levels," Ravelas said.

Overnight, the Dow Jones Industrial Index was down 10.8 points or 0.09 percent to 12,229.29. — Doris C. Dumlao

Disclosures

Ayala Corp. has disclosed the buyback of 3,000 shares at ₱729.00 each, 10,000 shares at ₱728.00, 30,000 shares at ₱728.45, and 3,000 shares at ₱729.00 on Feb. 11, executed by the company's share buyback program.

* * *

First Philippine Holdings Corp. has disclosed the buyback of 382,200 shares at ₱55.26 a share on Feb. 10 in line with the company's share buyback program.

* * *

MacroAsia Corp. has disclosed the buyback of 10,000 shares at ₱2.15 a share on Feb. 10 in line with the company's share buyback program.

* * *

Globe Telecom Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 12 at 9 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom, Intercontinental Manila, Ayala Center, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Feb. 25, 2011 is entitled to vote at the said meeting.

Philippine Stock Exchange

As of February 11, 2011

Currencies

February 11, 2011 trading	Unit	Cash Dollar	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.000000	1.000000	43.8000
Japan	Yen	0.012048	0.012048	0.5277
United Kingdom	Pound	1.604181	1.604181	70.2564
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.128383	0.128383	5.6230
Switzerland	Franc	1.012146	1.012146	44.3337
Canada	Dollar	0.991232	0.991232	43.4152
Australia	Dollar	1.008772	1.008772	44.1754
Singapore	Dollar	0.795545	0.795545	34.8464
Euro	Euro	1.367989	1.367989	59.9234
Taiwan	Dollar	0.034247	0.034247	1.4999
Korea	Won	0.000900	0.000900	0.0394
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.266631	0.266631	11.6790
Kuwait	Dinar	3.571429	3.571429	156.4286
Thailand	Baht	0.033113	0.033113	1.4503
UAE	Dirham	0.272294	0.272294	11.9268
China	Yuan	0.151745	0.151745	6.6466
India	Rupee	0.021922	0.021922	0.9602
Denmark	Krone	0.183729	0.183729	8.0463
Norway	Krone	0.173310	0.173310	7.5906
Sweden	Krona	0.151745	0.151745	6.6466
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.325733	0.325733	14.2671
New Zealand	Dollar	0.768639	0.768639	33.6656
Qatar	Riyal	0.274725	0.274725	12.0330
Bahrain	Dinar	2.652520	2.652520	116.1904

Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines

PSALM braces for $7-B debt burden

By Amy R. Remo

EXECUTIVES from Ayala and Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said it is ready to take over the power plants and contracts of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) after the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) signs deals with the two companies.

Meralco president Fernando Zobel de Ayala said in an interview that the company is ready to take over the power plants and contracts of Napocor after the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) signs deals with the two companies.

Of the power facilities, the Agus-Pulangi hydropower complex and several more power barges have yet to be sold.

For the BOT contracts, the government has yet to schedule the bidding for the 140-MW Pagbilao power complex, 440-MW Sual coal-fired geothermal power complex, 702-MW Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydropower plants, 100-MW Navotas Meralco Power Corp., 50-MW Southern Philippines Power Corp., 200-MW Mindanao coal power plant, 92.52-MW Mt. Apo 1 and 2 geothermal power plants and the 105-MW Casecnan hydroelectric power plant.

Due to the huge amount of debt that have yet to be settled even after auctioning all the proceeds from the sale of the assets, PSALM needs to borrow more money over the next several years, as well to implement a universal charge for stranded debts and stranded contract costs.

PSALM was created in 2001 and tasked not only to handle the privatization of Napocor's generation assets and contracted capacities, but to also clean up the power firm's debt.

Sugar prices seen too high

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE RETAIL prices of sugar are still too high, at least compared with how much refiners' prices have declined this month, the Department of Trade and Industry will wait until last three weeks to decide whether a suggested retail price should be imposed on the basic commodity.

On the sidelines of yesterday's National Price Coordinating Council meeting, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said retail prices of sugar were expected to go down within the next two to three weeks. The council would reconvene after this period to evaluate whether price controls are necessary.

The retail price decrease, he said, should be "significant," and should bring the average price of refined sugar below P60 a kilo.

According to monitoring done by the Department of Agriculture, the price of refined sugar averaged around P64 a kilo as of Feb. 4. Last month, the price of refined sugar went as low as P63 and as high as P69 a kilo in groceries.

DTI studies price control on commodity

In a separate interview, Sugar Regulatory Administration administrator Regina Ilarina said sugar prices were no longer expected to go up from coming months, with the milling season now hitting its peak.

She related that refiner prices had actually gone down to around P2,000 a bag for white sugar from last year's P3,000/50-kg. and P2,100-P2,200/50-kg bag for brown sugar from P2,500/50-kg bag.

Retail prices, however, had so far failed to follow this downward trend, she said.

"Prices have stabilized at around P60 a kilo, but some retailers have yet to bring prices down. We'll be forming a committee to talk to these (groceries) to ask them why they haven't yet reflected this decrease. We'll study why the decrease (in the prices of raw sugar) has not translating to lower retail prices," she told reporters.

She said supply was not really a problem at this point, as the country has enough.

"There's no need to import now. We even recommend that, but right now, there's no need to do that," she said.

Domingo said the SPCC would look at the price and supply situation three to four weeks from now and decide from there whether the country should import sugar.

Its data showed that as of end-January local supply hit more than 1.1 million MT. 132,706 MT from inventory and 977,282 from production. This represented a 463,269 MT difference from last year's close to 1.6 million MT supply during the same period.

Trade Undersecretary Dominic Meghan related that millers would have to close whether they would be able to meet domestic demand this year, considering how much lower this year's annual supply was vis-a-vis last year's.

The DA estimated sugar production for crop year 2010-2011 to reach 2.95 million MT and domestic demand to be around 2 million MT.

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Prices of food products on the rise, trade execs say

By Abigail L. Ho

PRICES OF some food products, particularly cooking oil and canned goods, have increased over the past weeks, mostly due to global factors such as high petroleum prices and escalating global demand.

The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Statistics reported that the prevailing price of a "liquid" bottle (375 mL) of cooking oil stood at P32.44 as of Feb. 10, with a low of P29 and a high of P36.

Exactly a month ago, the average price of the same bottle of cooking oil was just P32. In the same period last year, the price was P31 a bottle.

On the other hand, a "long seed" cooking oil bottle (750 mL), now retails for an average of P73, with a low of P68 and a high of P80. In the same period last year, the prevailing price of the same amount of cooking oil stood at P70.

Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said local cooking oil prices were being driven up by an increase in global demand.

"With global demand rising, our cooking oil exports have also increased, leading to reduced supply for the domestic market," he said on the sidelines of yesterday's National Price Coordinating Council meeting.

Demand is being driven mostly by China and India.

In a separate interview, Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya said the surge in cereal oil prices in the world market was another contributor to high local cooking oil prices.

From the P20.39 a kilo retail oil in February 2010, prices now sells for P61.94 a kilo, she said.

Apart from cooking oil, prices of canned goods also had risen by a spur up.

"There are so many things surrounding the processing industry, such as fuel prices and the like. We can't hold back anymore," said Francisco Buencamino of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc.

General beef producers were among the first to adjust, he said. Price increases ranged from 6 to 8 percent.

DTI: Flour prices may hit record high levels

CONSUMERS SHOULD brace themselves for more hikes in the prices of bread, bread products, and noodles, as domestic flour prices would hit an all-time high this year.

Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said flour prices were "in a serious situation" right now, citing the continuous escalation of wheat prices in the world market.

"World wheat prices have more than doubled from last year. From Jan. 1 '21 alone, prices have increased by 15 percent. Wheat prices are really going up," he told reporters yesterday.

Some of the reasons for escalating wheat prices were huge demands from South China, and India, as well as problems encountered by wheat-producing countries such as Canada, Domingo explained.

A 25-kilogram bag of flour now sells for up to P800.

But that may still go up to P850 in the next two weeks, he said.

"That price is not even final, as millers say they still have a lot of stocks; however, it usually takes two weeks before new prices to take effect, but they'll have to implement gradual price increases until they reach their limits," Domingo said.

Both would wheat prices were hitting record highs, he said it would not be responsible for local flour prices to climb to historic levels.

In mid-2008, local flour price peaked at P980 a bag.

"We're still not sure if prices will go that (P2008 high)," he said, adding that such could still undergo a correction.

So far, the secret like to flour prices had triggered a rise in bread prices.

Branded bread producers are now priced at a range of P42-P67 a loaf. — Abigail L. Ho

PNB, ALI Solidifies Business Relationship

LEFT TO RIGHT: Emmanuel Gomez II, Past II (PNB Special Assets Management Group Head), Natalia B. Montenegro (Avida President), Bernard Vincent O. Dy (ALI/BDO Head), Eugene S. Acevedo (PNB President), Christopher E. Magtanong (Avida-PNBS Vice President), Christian Jerome D. Zaldua (PNB Special Assets Management Deputy & Avida Director Head)

The Philippine National Bank and Avida Land Corp., an Ayala Land Inc. subsidiary, recently strengthened its business relationship with the formal turnover of a 2.3 hectare Bank-owned property located along EDSA corner Reliance and Mayflower Sts. in Mandaluyong City.PNB's President Eugene S. Acevedo and Avida Land's President Rosalino M. Montenegro inked the agreement last January 31, 2011.

Avida plans to develop the property into a residential condominium haven for young professionals and start-up families, as it provides easy access and mobility to EDSA's thoroughway. The project, which is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2011, will likewise offer innovative and unique amenities and features.

This is the second joint venture entered into by the Lucio Tan Group of Companies and Ayala Land Group. Early last year, Eton Properties Philippines, Inc. and Ayala Land Corp. signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the development of a 4-hectare property in Laguna.

BSP revises peso forecast for 2011

Inflows seen to strengthen currency

By Michelle V. Rama

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has revised its forecast on the average peso-dollar exchange rate for this year. It now expects a stronger range of 43 to 45 against the US dollar from the previous range of 45 to 47, as foreign capital inflows are expected to remain robust.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said that, in making its latest peso-dollar projection for 2011, the regulator took into account the latest financial developments that tend to influence the exchange rate, including dollar inflows.

In 2010, the peso averaged at 45.112 against the dollar. It closed the end of the year, it strengthened, closing at 43.84.

Foreign exchange traders and economists said last year's appreciation of the peso was partly driven by the surge in foreign portfolio investments.

In 2009, the peso averaged at 47.63 against the greenback.

Foreigners have been buying up local stocks and other securities, pushing up the stock market and pulling down interest rates on government securities to record lows. Some analysts say, however, foreign investors looking for short-term gains prefer to park their funds in emerging markets like the Philippines, given the encouraging growth rates and favorable economic prospects of the region.

According to an earlier report from the central bank, net inflows of foreign portfolio investments rose to $4.8 billion in 2010—nearly 12 times more than the $390 million registered the previous year.

Latest data from the BSP showed that foreign portfolio investments would continue to be strong through 2011. In the first nine weeks of January, net inflows amounted to $274.14 million—up 67 percent from the $164.29 million seen in the same period last year.

Guinigundo said that, apart from foreign portfolio investments, other factors that had served to strengthen the peso were remittances, investments in the country's business process outsourcing sector, and improving export income.

He said the peso-dollar rate of 43 to 45 was used by the BSP in making the inflation forecast for this year and 2012.

The exchange rate influences inflation through imports. A stronger peso makes imported goods cheaper in local-currency terms, thereby pulling down overall domestic prices.

The BSP changed its inflation forecasts for this year and the next. For 2011, the BSP expects inflation to average 4 to 4.9 percent, higher than the previous estimate of 3.6 percent. For next year, inflation is seen to settle at 3.3 percent from the previous 3 percent.

For this year and the next, the government hopes to limit the rate of rise in consumer prices to within a range of 3 to 5 percent.

Indophil turns to other options

By Jerry S. Bacus

AUSTRALIA LISTED Indophil Resources NL said it would no longer extend San Miguel Corp.'s exclusivity period, which allowed the conglomerate time to decide whether it would increase its stake in the mining firm.

Indophil said in a statement it was truly a third of the $3.9 billion Tampakan copper gold project in Mindanao.

In a statement, Indophil chief executive officer Richard Lockhaus said the mining firm deemed that it was "no longer in the best interests of the relevant parties and Indophil's shareholders to pursue a further extension of an exclusivity review period. The exclusivity agreement had been in place for four months ... since Oct. 6, 2010."

San Miguel was able to secure a stake in the much-coveted Tampakan project—touted to be South east Asia's richest, untapped copper and gold deposit—by acquiring a 30.1-percent stake in Indophil in October last year.

Indophil owns 37.5 percent of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), the local company working on the Tampakan project in South Cotabato. SMI is largely controlled by global mining giant Xstrata Plc.

"Indophil has developed a sound relationship with San Miguel, and we maintain an ongoing dialogue with San Miguel as it continues with its due diligence process. San Miguel is an impressive organization and enjoying excellent leadership," Lockhaus said.

"Finding the exclusivity arrangement with San Miguel does not close out Indophil's right to make a control proposal to Indophil or engage in a corporate relationship that the decision does allow Indophil to pursue the options."

According to Lockhaus, Indophil will not rule out sale or partnership possibilities.

"But we reserve the option to focus on the genuine prospect of continuing to participate vigorously and directly in the development of the Tampakan asset. Given the considerable progress at Tampakan, we believe it is appropriate to allow the market to unlock the added value that is traditionally derived during advanced project development. This in turn leads to significantly higher returns to shareholders as a company is created," Lockhaus explained.

Banks secure less loans from BSP

THE AMOUNT of discount loans banks had secured from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) in January dropped by 95 percent from that of the same month last year.

The BSP yesterday reported that since banks were still awash in cash, the monetary authority only disbursed P984.1 million worth of discount loans to banks.

In January 2010, banks secured discount loans worth P16.78 billion from the central bank.

The BSP extends discount loans to banks to ensure that the financial institutions are able to continue lending to qualified borrowers, even if they are faced with insolvencies.

The amount of loans disbursed to discounted rules of the borrowing bank's collaterals, which serve as collateral.

Of the total discount loans disbursed in January, about 62 percent were used for re-lending by banks. The balance were used to fund capital expenditures and serve as working capital, the BSP said.

The amount of discount loans availed by banks from the BSP has been dwindling since early last year, when the monetary authority decided to increase the interest rate on loans.

The BSP now imposes a 4-percent interest on discount loans on all maturities beyond 90 banks. This was higher than the previous charge of 3.75 percent.

The move last year to raise the interest rate on discount loans was in response to the economy's recovery from the slowdown seen in 2009.

According to authorities, banks do not need to access discount loans because of their growing liquidity.

The country's banking sector currently enjoys comfortable levels of liquidity given a growing economy, said central bank officials. Deposits, which are mainly used to fund bank loans, have been growing at relatively fast rate.

Data from the BSP showed that total resources of the country's banking sector amounted to P6.6 trillion as of end-October 2010, up by about 9 percent from the P6.2 trillion recorded the previous year. — With Delfin V. Reyes

Editor Cesar D. Pangilinan

PROPERTY

5 green acts in eco-sustainable golf course

PLAY in an international level, all-weather championship course in Arroyo Cove. Designed by GolfPlan, it has the potential to be at par with top golf courses in the world.

By Emmeir Cora

EACH GOLF game has its own story to tell—whether meeting/bonding new friends or a company deal sealed after a tee-off. But golfers and games in Arroyo Cove would have a more interesting tale to share playing in what is touted to be one of the first eco-sustainable golf courses in the country.

You read it right, eco-sustainable or going green has just charted its ways to golf.

Eco-resort and residential development Arroyo Cove, the only Asian finalist for the green and sustainable category of the Three Feet-based Hospitality and Design Magazine Award, has recently added a multibillion-peso development with the Arroyo Cove Golf and Sports Club in its 720-hectare master-planned community in Morong, Rizal.

With its promise of sustainability, world-class golf design and maximum playability, the 18-hole golf course and sports club is set to redefine golfing experience in the country. Ayala Land officials said during a recent press briefing.

"Sustainability is the guiding principle in building Arroyo Cove. This is a tangible representation of Ayala Land Premier's thrust for environmental sustainability and holds the distinction of being our first leisure community development," said Antonino Aquino, president of Ayala Land Inc.

Nestled at the tip of Batasan peninsula where the mountains meet the sea, the top-scale seaside setting offers a diverse mix of residential offerings...from a range of lot sizes, leisure townhomes and low-rise condominium units...all anchored on the tenets of sustainable leisure and exceptional amenities.

Upon completion in 2013, the billion-peso golf course project in Arroyo is expected to set the standards for "green" golf courses in the country with its all-seaside, 18-hole championship course, marking its potential to be ranked alongside the best golf courses in the world. Hot portions of the golf course would be ready for playing during the latter part of next year.

Sustainable community

Here are five "sustainable" reasons to back Ayala Land's claims of a sustainable community:

1 Earth moving. In partnership with GolfPlan, a globally renowned design firm specializing in sustainable golf course development, Arroyo Cove conducted baseline flora and fauna surveys to make sure that the natural order is preserved. The rarest affected are protected while some are relocated.

2 Water use. Ayala Land believes that one of the cardinal rules in sustainability is the controlled consumption of water resources. For instance, Arroyo uses drought tolerant vegetation which also serves as buffers to reduce water run-off and to prevent soil erosion. It also conducts regular water quality monitoring and utilizes grass swales to promote ground infiltration of water.

3 Grass selection and choosing the best turf. GolfPlan principal and consultant Bernie Slattery related that the endemic Manila grass (*Zoysia matrella*) was used as it requires 20 percent less water compared to other zoysiagrass species. The turf is also insect and wind-resistant so pesticide requirement is less, around 50 percent less compared to others. It also requires less fertilizer for maintenance and its slow growth rate saves on energy expenditure cutting 25 percent in mowing activities.

4 Energy savings. Even in planning stage, Arroyo developers have considered passive cooling features for the whole community and energy conservation initiatives like regular monitoring of fuel and water consumption.

5 Community oriented. With the addition of the golf and sports club, employment opportunities are seen to double for the local community and neighboring provinces.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar O. Mangaoang

Toughen your heart with what you eat

By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE'S THAT old 20th century urban legend that tells the bodies of young Americans and Asian soldiers who died in battle were autopsied. The hearts of the Vietnamese and Korean casualties were found to have clear arteries, free from fatty deposits. The hearts of the American soldiers, however, were fatty and clogged. It seemed, even before the first shot was taken, that the Americans, who had taken more than their fill of milk and bacon, were losing the war to cardiovascular disease.

Today's Filipino diet is no urban legend, but it is by no means less unsettling, according to a renowned nutritionist. Though some may look at it as a joke, stalling actor Pinoytoasted diet staples as the "double bypass burger," the "triple bypass bolo," or the "quintuple bypass soup" (and then dig into them just the same), theorists M. Batista, UNPH, MPH, RND, is dead serious on this matter.

"The Filipino way of celebrating events, and fiesta, is also a recipe for damaging our endothelium cells. We feast our cardiothelium by eating fatty foods and animal products. We polluted the nutritional distribution during a lechon alone the Germany Health Improvement program held at the Schwabisch Medical Center felt. It.

The endothelium is a layer of flat cells lining the closed internal spaces of the body such as the inside of blood vessels and lymphatic vessels. Once narrow the lymph, a milky fluid and the heart.

In a video shown by Batista during the lecture, Michael Klapper, MD, examines a certain Mr. Philips, a needle-class for hyper operation the next day. The video showed the blood removed from Philips as "clouds" with high glycemic content. When asked by Klapper what Philips ate before coming to the hospital, he answered "Cheese burgers and milk shake."

Batista then explained how his courses through the blood vessels. She also pointed to LDL (Low density lipoprotein—the "bad cholesterol") as strongly linked to an increased risk of heart disease.

The culprit

Preventive health expert Dr. Neil Shelley specified a certain type of cholesterol in LDL, currently isolated, cholesterol, as the culprit. "It is a well-known fact that the level of LDL in the blood is an important determinant of the rate at which cholesterol is deposited in the arterial wall," he had explained in his book "Proof Positive."

Shelley added that although most people may be aware that organ meats such as the liver and kidney are among the most intense sources of cholesterol, many will do not understand the basic prevalence of cholesterol in animal foods.

Some many types of fish meat have high cholesterol content, he added.

Batista stressed that cholesterol can be found only in animal products, while fruits, vegetables, grains and nuts contain no cholesterol. She further revealed that animal products such as meats, eggs, milk, cheese and cream and cheese would almost certainly increase a person's LDL level. The LDL particles the endothelium, where it is oxidized and does its damage by creating plaque on the walls of the blood vessels and arteries.

"What is terrifying about lesser arteries is that 50 % percent of deaths from cardiovascular disease is not due to blockage [of the heart] but to ruptures. If the rupture happens to the brain it is called a stroke; if it happens to the heart, it is a heart attack," Batista said.

Life-saving fiber

Michael Eisenstaer to explore with examples of fiber's health-giving benefits. A study in the New Engl. Journal of Cardiology in 1992 by Haskell WL, Spiller GA, et al. "Role of water soluble dietary fiber in the management of elevated plasma cholesterol in healthy subjects" found that adding 15 grams of fiber a day to the diet lowered serum cholesterol by 15 percent.

The effect of fiber in lowering cholesterol correlates with the decrease in blood glucose in people who consume high amounts of it.

In the American Journal of Epidemiology in 1987 by Khaw KT, Barrett-Connor E. "Dietary fiber and reduced ischemic heart disease mortality rates in men and women, a 12-year prospective study" those that consume a high fiber diet have a 40 percent less risk of heart disease.

Here are few examples of fiber facts: [with a serving of 1 cup or 1 piece unless indicated otherwise]: Whole wheat bread 2.1 [grams of fiber], bagel, whole wheat 4.2 g, Pita bread 6.5 g, oatmeal 4.1 g, granola 4 g, Kellogg's Bran Buds 13 g, raspberries 13.0 g, cauliflower 4.6 g, broccoli 5.2 g, peas 6.7 g, brussels sprouts 7.8 g, sweet potato, without skin 7.3 g, lentils 30.3 g, pinto beans 12.8 g, navy beans 19.8 g.

Animal products (meat, milk, eggs, cheese) contain no fiber. "Many people who eat an otherwise heart healthy diets will be unable to lower their cholesterol sufficiently unless they completely eliminate animal protein from their diets," Shelley quipped.

BRAVO. Johnson and Montalbon (L to R) are all hopeful that the Philippines is now in a better position to deal with the deadly meningococcal disease.

More effective means to fight meningococcal disease

Text and photo by Charlie L. Rubio

YOU DON'T mess with a meningococcal disease. It can appear in several different forms—as a meningitis or septicemia, or a combination of both—depending on which part of the body the bacteria invade. And one expert described the disease as "one could be well at breakfast and dead by dinner."

Meningococcal disease is an acute bacterial infection that can cause death within hours if not recognized and treated in time. The bacteria could cause the inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord (called the "meninges") or enter the bloodstream and multiply uncontrollably, damaging the walls of the blood vessels and causing bleeding into the skin.

While meningococcal meningitis can result in permanent disabilities such as deafness or brain injury (although in some cases, it can cause death), any trauma on the other hand is much more alarming as it could lead to death within hours. If not, it could cause permanent disabilities such as severe scarring due to skin grafts and amputation of the fingers, toes, arms or legs, due to lack of blood circulation to the extremities of the body.

Anyone could get meningococcal disease, but it is more common in infants and children. Recent studies have shown that children exposed to tobacco smoke are at higher risk for infection. Overcrowding, climatic conditions such as dry season, prolonged coughs, or that can cause upper respiratory tract infections may contribute to the development of epidemics since the disease could be spread by direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of a carrier or ill person.

Most lethal

"Invasive meningococcal disease is one of the most lethal infectious diseases known to man, because of the terrifying speed with which it can kill or maim, not to mention the difficulty of early diagnosis. More alarming is that infant and small children are the most vulnerable to meningitis," warned Dr. Leila Bravo, vice chancellor for research and executive director of the National Institute of Health at the University of the Philippines Manila during the launch of Sanofi Pasteur's Menactra, the world's first vaccine that provides immunity against four of the five most common causes of the disease.

Bravo, who is also president of the International Society of Tropical Pediatrics and chair of the Asian Strategic Alliance for Pneumococcal Disease Prevention, informed that here in the country there are more than 1,000 reported cases of bacterial meningitis, with more than 100 dying afterward.

"When it strikes, the likelihood of dying is high, which is around 30 percent of the cases that are reported," she explained. "In the sense that it does not only see the victims—mostly children will suffer...but their families as well," explained Dr. May Montellano, 99 of the International Society for Tropical Pediatrics.

Deal better

Montellano lauded the Philippine Network of Food and Drugs' approval of Menactra as this would enable the country to deal with the devastating disease earlier than the rest of the world.

"This is because the Philippines is one surely the only market outside North America to have the vaccine that could protect against meningococcal disease serogroups A, C, Y and W-135.

"We are looking forward to providing our consumers and stakeholders unequivocal confidence in all of this, and eventually the rest of the world. Of course, we are more than ready to work with the Philippines Department of Health to make this vaccine available to every part of the Philippines," announced Dr. Sanofi Johnson, Sanofi Pasteur's meningococcal disease marketing director. He said that before Menactra, the company only provides a bivalent polysaccharide vaccine that could offer protection against serogroups A and C.

While one of the vaccines against Hemophilus influenza type B (Hib) for some part of the Philippines expanded program of immunization (EPI), the vaccine that protect against streptococcus pneumonia and Neisseria meningitides responsible for major cause of serious disability and death in this and Africa are still not part of the EPI although they could be availed through private channels, especially pediatricians.

Bravo and Montellano agreed that with the availability of Menactra, organizations like the Confederation of Meningitis Organizations and the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination as well as the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines will now be able to come up with much stronger campaign to fight this deadly and cruel life disease.

A cure for cancer

"SENIAT? HARINH ako, doc, dapat ako nagka-cancer?"

It is difficult to hear this oft-repeated question. It requires cancer with punishment. It is an attempt by a patient fighting for his life to understand what is going on with his body. It is also a bargaining chip when one pleads his case to a Superior Being. For how good, spare me from this.

Cancer patients may feel that they are being punished and it takes little reasoning to convince them otherwise. The simple fact is that cancer, if lung cancer was punishment for a life spent smoking, then why don't all smokers develop cancer? Some smokers develop other diseases like emphysema and bronchitis. If one developed cancer because of drinking alcohol, then why don't all drinkers develop cancer? Why do some drinkers develop liver cirrhosis?

Don't get me wrong. Smoking and alcohol are readily associated with the development of certain kinds of cancer but it is understandably not so simple as that. How many cancer patients have smoked or never drank?

The point is that the cancer question still does not have a satisfactory answer. Cancer has many causes. Modern science still does not know all these causes. Is it bad habits? Is it just bad habits? Is it a cancer gene? Is it exposure to a poison? Is it an environmental pollutant? Could it have been prevented? Is it a combination of everything? All anyone can do is to say as loudly as is as possible and hope that whatever triggers cancer is not detected in them.

The good news is that there are now many ways to treat and cure cancer. Cancer is not necessarily a death sentence.

In the Philippines, the medical profession boasts of some of the best cancer surgeons, the best medical oncologists (those who treat cancer with chemotherapy). Many of our hospitals have world-class cancer centers, although these admittedly are in the major cities.

Another piece of good news is that all forms of cancer treatment are available in the Philippines. Other than primary, there is very little reason to seek cancer treatment abroad. The important thing is to have multidisciplinary treatment—that is, a cancer patient's surgeon, medical oncologist and radiation oncologist should all work together as a team rather regarding the best plan of treatment. For it does not take a genius to figure out that no two patients are exactly the same.

Dr. Ruth Cruz, MD, radiotherapy specialists from the Philippine Philippine Radiation Oncology Society and Southeast Asia Health and Asian Radiation Oncology Group] will be meeting with experts from the American Society for Radiation Oncology (Astro) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna next month to discuss oncologists (those who treat cancer with radiotherapy). Many of our hospitals have world-class cancer centers, although these admittedly are in the major cities.

Philips introduces Sonicare Flexcare toothbrush in PH market

By Theresa E. Samaniego

SOME EXPERTS claim that brushing alone does not guarantee healthy gums and surely does not of teeth to go with that pursues perfect smile. This has even become the selling point for other products that similarly address dental healthcare.

In fact, Brenton Hernandez, consumer and trade marketing manager for Philips Consumer Lifestyle, admitted that "conventional toothbrushes do not address the finer aspects of dental hygiene, such as removing plaque along the gumline and between the teeth."

Philips, being aware of the importance of healthy teeth and gums, so, decide decided to up the ante with the introduction of the Sonicare Flexcare toothbrush in the Philippine market.

Unlike conventional toothbrushes readily available today, Hernandez claimed that this sonic toothbrush brand recommended by dentists worldwide, addresses "oral health holistically with its superior brushing technology that improves gum health in only two weeks."

Philips officials present during the product launch held recently also claimed that Sonicare Flexcare is proven to significantly remove more plaque than the manual toothbrush. Hernandez added that this particular toothbrush offers Sonicare's patented sonic technology that delivers 31,000 strokes per minute and ProBrush brush heads to cultivate exceptional results.

Help reduce bacteria

More importantly, using Philip's Sonicare Flexcare can help reduce gingivitis and other harmful bacteria that cause gum diseases.

"As Sonicare cleans the teeth on gently itself, there are minimal more bruising teeth is noticeably whiter in two weeks," Hernandez stated.

"Proper cleaning [and is essential in maintaining the holistic oral health care. In an endemic dentist, it is a must that an investor tool is maximized to be worn dental visits," added Dr. Sunny Bacina, an esthetic dentist.

Designed with a unique LED-illuminated display panel, Sonicare Flexcare has five power modes, which can be adjusted to give extra effort on trouble spots, namely: clean (two-minute cleaning for the whole mouth); gum (two-minute cleaning for healthy gums); white (one-minute cleaning for quick touch-up on between-meals); sensitive (gentle on sensitive teeth); and massage (for gum stimulation).

Philips also came out with the limited-time Fun Pack, an interactive system that challenge of getting their children to clean their teeth properly and of developing effective brushing habits early on.

"Oral healthcare is very important for Filipino parents. From an early on end, diet years, parents try to instill the brushing habits in their children to make sure they have healthy teeth and gums," Hernandez noted.

"In developing Sonicare for Kids, Philips combined the parental sensitive technology with kid-friendly features to create a toothbrush that delivers maximum effectiveness for children at every age. We are confident that the product will bring a smile to both parents and children. Personally, when I like about the product is the handle because parents can grab the child while brushing," she explained.

Toothbrush for kids

According to Philips, its sonic toothbrush for kids has two power modes namely the low mode for kids aged four years and above, and the high mode, which was designed for kids aged seven years and up. The low and high modes are 60 percent and 40 percent less powerful than the adult Sonicare power brush. Brushes, respectively.

The company further claimed that two out of three dentist parents raise an eyebrow most to their children's brushing behavior after using Sonicare For Kids, while 93 percent were highly satisfied with its cleaning performance.

However, achieving that healthy smile and set of pearly white teeth via the Philips Sonicare comes at a steep price. The Sonicare Flexcare retails for P8,000 while the version for kids sells for P6,000. Both are available only through selected dental clinics nationwide.

PHILIPS Sonicare

Country's tallest building topped off

REAL ESTATE firm Century Properties marked its first record in the year with the topping off ceremony for The Gramercy Residences, currently the tallest building in the Philippines.

The topping off ceremony celebrated the completion of the building's topmost floor, which stands more than 70 stories. With reinforcing works already complete, the construction team is now finishing the installation of electrical and sanitary pipelines for all the floors.

Exterior painting works for The Gramercy's curtain wall is currently underway, as well as interior paintings and the installation of balcony railings for all units.

Milestone

"We are proud to commemorate this milestone as we celebrate our 15th year in the real estate industry," said John Victor F. Antonio, chief operating officer of Century Properties. "This occasion is a testament of our commitment of delivering our projects on schedule and to the best quality to our clients. Together with the future residents of Gramercy we eagerly anticipate the project's completion and turnover in ... 2012."

Antonio led the top officials and special guests of Century Properties in the event, which was also graced by architect Clark Jose E.R. Antonio, managing director Mario and Robin R. Antonio, executive vice president for planning Carlo E. Antonio, directors Rafael G. Sapsaluarga and Rolando D. Garcia, Tibal Cuenca and architect Roland Rocha of Gamboa Project Management and Construction Corp., head of Vertical Projects Raul Abrasia and Century Properties independent director Washington Z. SyCip. Architects Roger and Rey Villanueva, the local architects of Gramercy, also attended the ceremony.

Brisk sales

Launched in 2007, The Gramercy Residences enjoyed brisk sales from local and international buyers who aspired for a modern and upscale lifestyle in the country's foremost financial capital, Makati. Unit owners also look forward to the building's unique features three floors of hypermansions called The Skypads located halfway up the building and offering spectacular skyline views as well as fully serviced units with executive design options.

The Gramercy Residences is the first residential tower rising in Century City (www.centurycityrealty.com.ph), the 3.6 hectare mixed use development of Century Properties that will comprise luxury residential towers including Knightsbridge and Milano, a lifestyle/retail center, and an IT/tech park and Gramercy, the 10.00-million square-foot medical IT building called Gramercia Medical Makati.

CENTURY Properties Chairman E.B. Antonio (right) attends to Bridgestone Director Washington Z. SyCip the spectacular views routinely will enjoy from their Gramercy units.

A PHOTO taken during a topping off ceremony for the Makati CBD of The Gramercy Residences, which stands more than 70 storeys and is currently the Philippines' tallest building.

Peaceful retreat

WITH THE rise of Escalades at 2005 Ave., Robinsons Land Corp. has found a way to provide an escape from the hectic pace of the city and carve a peaceful retreat within the urban landscape.

Situated on 2005 Avenue, in Cubao, Quezon City, this residential complex is located in the midst of a lifestyle and commercial hub. Composed of six towers clustered around a central courtyard, Escalades at 2005 Ave. is a mish-mash of shared (open) residential buildings and wide open spaces that allows homeowners to relax and let go of the day's stress.

Each building boasts a lobby and two central elevators, as well as closed circuit cameras to maintain a tight watch on security. All six towers open up to the central courtyard, landscaped to simulate a park. Other outdoor features include a playground, a picnic area with barbecue pits, and a gazebo.

Tower 1, which is the closest to the Gramercy Gate, has already been completed and is now being turned over to unit owners. Construction of Tower 3, which is adjacent to Tower 2, is currently underway. Units in all three towers are already sold out.

Listed under the Bohlayang Commercial Group (www.robinsonscommunities.com) brand, the property offers units of studio (22 sq m), one-bedroom (32 sq m) and two-bedroom (49 sq m) configurations, ranging from P1.3-million to P3-million. Two-bedroom units also come with balconies and a view of the city to entertain the soul.

Be part of an exclusive townhouse community in Circulo Verde.

At Circulo Verde Garden Homes, you can enjoy the comforts of suburban living in an urban setting. An intimate neighborhood made up of 92 townhouse units with access to Circulo Verde, a development where 70% of its total area is dedicated to open space. This is the only townhouse community in the metro where residents can enjoy this privilege.

CIRCULO VERDE GARDEN HOMES

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New San Jose Builders constructs sports complex in affordable condos

THE NEW San Jose Builders Inc. (NSJBI) presents the nation's biggest market for homes in first-ever community sports complex, fitted to competition standards, for the total fulfillment of sports development and lifestyle achievement.

Enabling its property homeowners use of the widest array of indoor and outdoor sports facilities, NSJBI provides a total area of two hectares of sports facilities, the largest ever offered by a Philippine leader in affordable home building.

This far-reaching program by NSJBI highlights social interaction, active lifestyle and health promotion as well as support for national sports competence—all elements which define the fiber of Filipino modern and harmonious living.

Jose Armour, chair and CEO of NSJBI, says the company's pride in bringing the home market for everyone need to having a Filipino home in terms of location, reliability, functionality and lifestyle definition.

BADMINTON court

"We've been a genuine provider of the Filipino dream through decades. And we fulfill this leadership role today as we fulfill those dreams and aspirations of our market," Armour says.

"With the sports complex, we tackle in a single sweep our individual buyers' needs to achieve balanced recreation and work, our family buyers' need to easily provide a healthful environment and the need of our communities for positive social interaction," he says.

NSJBI presents this sports complex which will be found at the condominium offerings Victoria Suites 2 located near the GMA-Kamuning MRT station, and Verona de Manila 1 on Taft Avenue.

Within these two projects are complexes ready with base bowling facilities, Olympic length swimming pools, fully equipped and professionally manned gyms, tennis, badminton and basketball courts, billiard halls, open activity centers and members-only spa.

NSJBI is also considering the expansive use of glass panels and water-filled pools to give club members a spectacular view of the city as well as the tranquil-filled environment.

"On the bigger scale," Armour adds, "New San Jose Builders seeks thanks to the promotion and development of sports in our country."

Armour teams with the company's expectation that the NSJBI sports complex will help motivate, discover and train the country's budding sports talents as it strengthens the fiber of the Filipino families as social units.

FULLY EQUIPPED and professionally manned gym

Social Housing Programs to be tackled at Radyo Inquirer

Sewer system makes waves in the construction sector

THERE'S A new name in sewer systems that's captured the attention and earned the trust of some of the most respected names in the engineering and construction field. The brand is Schlecht Sewer system.

Gebert is a Swiss brand that has been tried and tested in Europe and other Asian countries and is now being proven by a growing number of our local builders and engineers to be unmatched in performance and durability. Gebert also has unparalleled advantages. It is cost efficient and has the simplest plumbing layout. It contains in interior wound membrane and it is efficient in preventing water seal theft a concentrated 2-inch system.

Gebert is also gaining popularity among builders such as Megaworld Construction Corp. A company that's consistently setting the standard for quality construction and has a very impressive portfolio of award making projects and investments such as a P1.3-billion hotel casino in Davaoque city; a P7.0-billion Tower which is one of the few green buildings inside Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, and a P1.0-billion project on put up the country's biggest facility that manufactures pre-cast concrete building systems in Tayug, Rizal which can help greatly reduce construction time by almost 30 percent. Megaworld engineers quickly Gebert System in most of its projects.

But, why this excitement over a sewer system, albeit a superior quality one? Unlike the exclusive distribution of Gebert in the country, is also for providing a name as supplier of advanced technology conservation materials. It believes that the product makes much sense in a country constantly plagued by faulty ventilation and saddled by some rather outdated sewerage and plumbing systems. So naturally, Gebert is the first and only intelligent drainage system in the market.

Megaworld and Gebert—you can think of this as a partnership for excellence. It's just what our country needs.

Manhattan Garden City named a sustainable project

Manhattan Garden City was identified as one of Megaworld Corporation's sustainable township projects during the 1st Sustainable Building Technology Conference held at November 11-12 at the SMX Convention Center.

According to Megaworld's Sustainability consultant, Edmund Mercado, township developments like Manhattan Garden City are the perfect models for sustainable land use planning. Compact townships promote "densification over sprawl" and transportation connectivity. Residents are encouraged to walk from the home to the mall or office.

Manhattan Garden City, located at the Alabang Center, offers an abundance of public transport options from buses, taxis to train lines. It is the only point in the metro where the LRT2 and MRT3 train lines converge, thus making any point of the metro from the north, south, east and west accessible within minutes.

Since this urban revolution will encourage residents to drive, work, play and shop within the community, they are forecast to consume less electricity and water, buy a lesser quantity of items and discard less trash and spend far less time in automobiles. With the train lines as an option for transport, they will significantly contribute to lessening greenhouse gas emissions, according to Mercado.

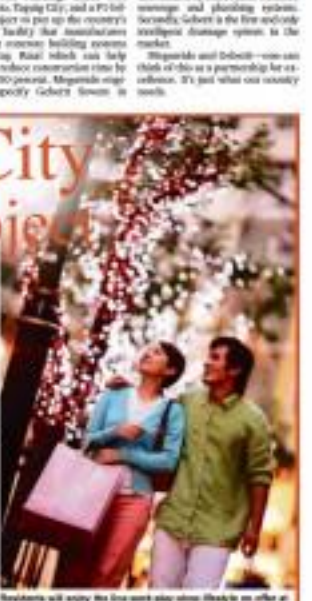
Manhattan Garden City is a joint venture project between the Alabang Group and Megaworld, the country's #1 developer of residential condominiums for the mid and upper income market.

"The green aspect of Manhattan Garden City also makes it a sustainable project. 65% of the total land area is dedicated to greeneries. Sky gardens at the upper four floors of every tower of our new phase, Manhattan Heights, will give residents a refreshing option to unwind high up the metro's confines," Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu declared.

More than 20 different amenities –such as a lap pool and kiddie pool, skylights and jogging paths – line amidst tropical landscaping at the fourth floor podium level of Manhattan Garden City. The podium level also hosts a 728-meter walkway through which residents can reach the other phases as well as the train stations via Gateway Mall for LRT2 and Farmers Plaza for the MRT line.

"Township living in a quaint place like Manhattan Garden City points the way to a sustainable future. You can live, work, shop and play here everyday of your life with the entire family," Yu concluded.

To inspect the benefits of living at Manhattan Garden City, please call 810-3555 or visit the showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall.



Residents will enjoy the live-work-play-shop lifestyle on offer at Manhattan Garden City.

Manhattan Garden City is one of the township projects of Megaworld Corporation that promote sustainability.

Manhattan Garden City is the only transit-oriented development that is linked to both LRT2 and MRT3 train lines.

What money can't buy

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Bermeguer
Contributor

EUGENE BRIGHTNEST this morning, my head was buzzing with all the news I'd been reading the past week, from the transitions in the interior. This morning's detailed accounts of Angie Harper and husband Jeremiah Brent Mondonca divulgence of the marriage, was within the military; the rambling preparations for Prince William and his princess to be, and how much they'd spend, on how to dress, the ceremonies, etc., Emanuel Garcia's recently incarcerated son, out on bail and now under house arrest, and his stuffing over the pair of Sergio Rossi boots he said I went because of the trucking device wrapped to his leg.

And this morning too, a friend posted us her Facebook note news of the death of Paul Getty, grandson of the famed Getty oil magnate, who was born into billions, but all for swallowing in the bigger lifestyle of drugs and alcohol, and, unfortunately, a stroke to his 20s (brought on by addictions), there say's, died recently at the age of 54. I wonder what he took with him.

It made me ponder, in this lifetime, how much do you really need? It's the same question I ask myself every time I embark on a new design project. Budget is one thing, but discerning where to put the money is another. How much is reasonable spending? How do your clients' defensive needs factor in? How much must money is needed to make things more aesthetic? Are beauty and esthetic principles always have nothing to do with how much money you spend to have.

Sadly, not everyone can discern things, of what beauty is. Even

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ROADTALK

One hot Valentine ride

Beyonce pulls a fast one by giving husband Jay-Z the world's fastest car

By Alexis Ly

LAST DECEMBER, celebrity Beyonce Knowles pulled a fast one for husband Jay-Z's 41st birthday by giving him a Bugatti Veyron Grand Sport, touted as the world's fastest car. Jay-Z is a popular American rap artist with a vast collection of exotic autos including a Maybach 62S, Ferrari F450 Spider and a Bugatti Zonda Roadster. He is also America's endorser for GMC auto brand. According to sources quoted in The Sun newspaper, "Jay-Z has one of the most covetable collections of bling cars in the world ... but even for him the Bugatti is special.

Considering their ultra-celebrity status, it took Beyonce a year to strike and due to its exhorbitant price, the car has been much sought-after with the likes of Tom Cruise, Ralph Lauren, Chris Brown and Simon Cowell in its list of celebrity owners. Reaching speeds of 253mph, it can go from zero to 60mph in just two and a half seconds flat.

To the celebrity couple, money is not an issue since they were named the highest-earning couple in showbusiness last year, earning over $100 million between them, beating other heavyweight couples, including Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, who earned $52 million, and David and Victoria Beckham, who earned $46 million on the same period last year.

Aside from their multi-million dollar earnings and her husband's car collections, Beyonce is fiercely private about her relationship with her rap mogul husband, the couple married under a veil of secrecy in April 2008 in New York.

the home depot by CW group

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THE new behind the advocacy campaign, from right, TV Concepcion (president of BPI Family Savings Bank), Dario Sarmiento, Jr. (SVP and head of Auto Loans Division) and Herbert Tuazon (SFSB VP and head of Product Marketing).

THE BPI Auto Loans team at the City Hall signage. From left, Eusebio Cala, BPI Family Auto Loans product assistant; Servulano Marian Jose Jacinto, VP and Auto Loan Direct Marketing head; Felipe Carlos, VP and Dealer Network head; Lincoln de Mike Mendoza, BPI Family Auto Loans center manager; Tikerio Mendiola, Auto Loan account officer; and Tauson.

Signs leading to safety

BPI Family Auto Loans launches landmark road advocacy

NO MORE accidents. Just a safe journey to the country's best vacation spots.

BPI Family Auto Loans, the industry leader in consumer loans, has launched a landmark advocacy aimed at helping motorists drive safely through the installation of informational and warning signs in tourist attractions considered by everyone as the best.

The campaign, dubbed "Safe Drive," will be BPI Family Savings Bank's (BPI) platform to promote road safety to motorists as well as giving a positive message of looking forward to a stronger and safer auto industry in 2011.

With Tagaytay City as the chosen pilot area, BPI Family Savings Bank head Kevin Chua, led by its president TV Concepcion, and members of the motoring media participated in the "Safe Drive" project to install signs to strategic locations on the Tagaytay.

The project was also meant to promote the City of Tagaytay as one of the country's prime tourist destinations, as effective road safety campaign should be in place to entice tourists to drive safely while enjoying the great outdoors.

According to Concepcion, "The motivating force behind the move [by Tagaytay and BPI Family Savings Bank is a wonderful example of how effective public-private partnerships are in promoting a worthy advocacy. I believe that the value created by these joint undertakings, multiplied a potentially unlimited number of times as well as garnering anywhere of visitors to our city, are sure to last."

David Sarmiento, Jr., BPI Family Savings Bank SVP and head of Auto Loans Division, is optimistic that the advocacy will enhance motorists about the perils of road driving and that private institutions such as BPIFB should continue to be socially responsible.

He added: "BPI family Savings Bank, through its Auto Loans Division, is fully committed to helping the country's auto industry grow responsibly. As more Filipinos are finding it easier to own their dream cars, we must reinforce responsible car ownership and safety road conditions for them. This is just the beginning, we hope to have similar endeavors in other key areas in the country to benefit more Filipinos."

BPI Family Auto Loans's hub-driven advocacy is soon to be duplicated in other cities to an effort to encourage responsible car ownership that will lead to safer roads and less accidents on such areas.

LINGERING reading one of the signage.

THE survey resting in Tagaytay roads

Mitsubishi welcomes new year with Affordables promo

THERE'S NO perfect time to start the year of the Metal Rabbit with a brand new Mitsubishi vehicle as Mitsubishi Motors Philippines makes owning one fast and easy with its "Mitsubishi's Affordables" promo. The "Mitsubishi's Affordables" features affordable and flexible financing plans with guaranteed savings on the purchase of any Mitsubishi vehicle.

With Mitsubishi's Affordables, your first 2 door be exercised is absolutely free under the "2 Months on Us" scheme. Through this scheme, 2 months of the monthly amortization plan will be waived and payment will start on the 3rd month for all variants of Lancer EX, Lancer 1.6 and 1.8 DOHC models. This also includes a free 3 year DTI registration.

Own an Adventure with very affordable down payment and monthly payment plans. For instance, Adventure GLX diesel can be acquired for just a low downpayment of P66,000 while paying only P15,834 monthly installments up to 60 months. And to give additional thrill, buyers of Adventure GLS, GLS Sport, and Super Sport will be entitled to P15,000 shopping spree by giving away SM Gift Cards worth P15,000. This gift card can be used at any SM in the nationwide.

Another tempting deal to choose from is the low downpayment or the low monthly payment plans. Under each financing plan, you only have to pay P130,000 downpayment on the Lancer EX 2. low GLS and will entail only 20,248 monthly payments for 60 months. Zero interest plans of up to 36 months are also available for the Lancer EX GLS model. Also, the Mitsubishi Grandis can be availed at a low downpayment of P268,000 or low monthly payments of P16,000 for 60 months with a 50% down payment.

The Lancer 1.6 GLX can be availed for as low as P66,800 downpayment only With the downpayment, buyer can extend payments up to 60 months and pay monthly installments of P12,764. Truenough to this plan provides the best value for your money, as the Lancer GLX has twists a counter rubber bumper, side cross panel molds, a painted 1.6 litre engine, 4-valved dual heads, dual SRS airbags, 15-inch wheels, single in-dash CD stereo, power locks and alarm system.

Promo also includes several irresistible offers to choose from. The Mitsubishi Affordables includes a 5-in package which gives a free 3 year CTD registration, 1 year Comprehensive Insurance, and Chattel Mortgage applicable to Galant GLS and Grandis models.

These offers are available at all Iconic chain Mitsubishi dealers nationwide. Promo period is from Feb. 1 to March 31.

Chevrolet adds more excitement to its Cruze and Aveo with iFree Promo

THE COMPANY Car Corporation (TCCC) gives all Chevy lovers a reason to start the New Year through Chevrolet's iFree Festival From Jan. 29 to Feb. 28, Chevrolet car buyers can get a free iPod touch for every purchase of a Chevy Cruze LT or LT or Chevy Aveo LT variants. The Chevy Cruze and Chevy Aveo come with standard ports for plug and play music connectivity allowing you to enjoy listening to your favorite music while on drive-to-use.

The Chevrolet Cruze offers upscale premiere with find economy. It has been known to offer luxury for less. The Cruze LT is armed with power amenities, keyless entry, automatic trunk, auto climate control, leather seats, reverse park assist, 17" wheels with disc brakes, traction control, rain sensing wipers, fog lamps, and the list goes on. With its sculpted interior and refined interior, it feels more like a sanctuary than a car when you're behind the wheel. The Cruze with all its upscale amenities, awards, and features like 6-speed automatic transmission with manual mode, unprecedented 6-star safety ratings (Euro NCAP, Australasian NCAP, Chinese NCAP), front EGR (emergency collapsing retractors), seatbelts with pretensioners, ABS (anti-lock brake system) and EBD (electronic brake distribution), airbags, and quality interior finishes offers a premium driving and ride experience for everyone.

The Chevrolet Aveo is a Gliding starts car that's filled with the kind of features and craftsmanship you'd expect to find in a much larger, more expensive car. The Aveo is packed with more safety features than one would expect. With standard dual airbags, three-point ELR (emergency locking retractable) seatbelts, functional ABS (anti-lock brake system) and reinforced impact structure, the Aveo keeps your journeys safe as it is fun. It is also a subcompact car designed for maximizing interior cabin space while reducing exterior dimensions. It has its signature contours, which continue to be able to seat five adults four full occupants to comfort and in an upright seating position. In addition to a more efficient engine and a more spacious cabin, fun-packed features such as Bluetooth Connectivity and dock in on entertainment features are designed to cater to the innovative 'youthful spirit'.

To test drive a Chevy Cruze LT or LT or Chevy Aveo and find out the Chevy that suits you and go to any of our 12 Chevy dealerships and avail of your own Chevy Cruze or Chevy Aveo now. Promo runs from Jan. 29 to Feb. 28 only.

REPRESENTATIVES of Foton Motor Phils with Foton View Van winners during the launch week at Willing-Willie.

Foton ties up with Willing-Willie

FOTON, THE second largest commercial vehicle manufacturer in the world, started the year with a grand partnership with the country's highest rating primetime show in TV5, Willing-Willie.

Last Jan. 17, host Willie Revillame announced Foton as its newest sponsor in Willy Wheels and Style a Wheel segment. A total of twelve Foton View vans will be given away and each night, contestants get a chance to take home a brand new 13-seater Foton View van.

Foton Motor Phils. (FMP) president Samuel Sytin expressed his gratitude for this opportunity "through Willing-Willie, we don't only get to promote our brand, we are also able to help make a difference in the lives of many Filipinos" he said in an interview.

FMP's sponsorship of Willing-Willie is part of its aggressive marketing efforts to continue strengthening for Foton brand in the local automotive industry to fulfill its commitment in making Foton the premier commercial vehicle brand in the Philippines. To date, Foton has 13 established dealerships and several accredited service centers nationwide offering the best after-sales service and most timely spare parts availability.

To 'Sy' is to believe

Concept One concludes last leg of Race of Champions

OFFICIAL vehicle transport Picasso

MITSUBISHI Ralliart

CHEVY Cruze

By Alvin Sy

LAST MONTH Inquirer Motoring reported the final results of the recently concluded PMC (Philippine Production Car Championship Race) with Team TRS leading the pack with 61.5 wins. On the same race weekend was the final leg of Concept One's Race of Champions (RoC) concluded at the Clark International Speedway. The two-day event was the last and the culmination of races that started last November involving Philippine racing legends and race champions-and among them were Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) Motorsports Committee chair Mandy Edaque, Popoy Ambolong, Teddy Montano, Edgar De Lanzo, Arni Isada, Peque Meneses, Ramoj Isada, Freddie Ong, Alex Gonzales, Willie Poblete, George Ramirez, Louie Ramirez, Jojo Silverio and Chevrolet endurance racer Ryan Ignacillo. The first and second round was held on the 3.5 -kilometer track of the BSC (Batangas Racing Circuit) where the drivers were put to the test in a time-attack format and the driver with the best time wins.

The first leg used two Chevrolet Cruze 1.8 LT cars that were fitted with Concept One 18-inch wheels and Nitto tires and upgraded on lower suspension provided by The Covenant Car Company Inc (the distributors for Chevrolet), while carrying racers were production cars provided by Hyundai Automotive Resources Inc. Mitish Gabriel Asumendoho (the distributors of MINI), Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Inc. and Nissan Image (Philippines) (distributors of Subaru) with the last leg around the race's 4-kilometer track of the Clark International Speedway.

Driving the Subaru behind the wheel of Mitsubishi Ralliart, barnacle-driver Tyson Sylvester did all the other race revenues with a time of 1:17.401, followed closely by Georges Ramirez with a time of 1:17.702 and trailed by Jojo Silverio with a time of 1:17.709. On the second base of the last RoC weekend, Tyson Sylvester again with a time of 1:20.041, as rally driver Ivan Isada followed a second behind with a time of 1:20.212 and Georges Ramirez rounding off the top three with a time of 1:20.232.

The Race of Champions was organized by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP), in cooperation with Concept One wheels and Nissan Philippines is the official vehicle transport of the...

10 reasons to love the Suzuki Swift

THE SUZUKI Swift is loved for many reasons, but what exactly are they?

The body shape. The Swift's two hatchbacks are reminiscent of classic European zero-less compact autos of 1990s vintage, which are popular even today. Plus, the fact that it's compact hatchback (with pronounced side haunches and flat pillars behind sizable wide-opening rear hatch) glass) greatly aids in handling abilities.

The ergonomic convenience. Anything and everything is within easy reach and within quick sight of any occupant, from the placement of the cup holders (storage bins to the three large smoothing knobs for the lower mid-dle part of the waterfall dash-board) to the latches that aid in folding the rear seats. Speaking of the rear seats, another reason why the Swift is a favorite is because of...

The loading ability. The Swift can handle five passengers in comfort...and can fit its own odd-shaped loads as well - thanks to the 60:40 split folding ability of the rear seats. Folding or unfolding convenient is the fifth door or the rear hatch, which has a low outside latch that doesn't make you have to drop what you're carrying and open the hatch door first.

The entertainment. We definitely aren't get bored on long jaunts with the Swift's audio entertainment, which has a head unit with buttons and knobs that are easy to control (reach, and an speakers placed in optimal listening pleasure spots. Plus, you have almost infinite ways to listen to music, whether it's from the FM/AM radio system, the CD/MP3 player or via an external MP3 player using the auxiliary jack. In addition, the driver can not take away the right to fiddle with the audio entertainment, as there are volume, station search and listening mode toggle buttons on the steering wheel.

The power unit. 1.5 liters of displacement - aided greatly by a DOHC 16 valve set-up and Variable Valve Timing (VVT) - puts the Swift's 1118 kg and 140 NM of torque at the driver's disposal instantly.

The fact that it runs on gas, not diesel. Gasoline engines (such as the Swift's) have a better balance between fuel efficiency and outright power...as there are quite fewer gears than diesel engines in order to keep the engine in the powerband. Likewise, gas engine parts aren't as big (or as heavy) as those of diesel engine parts. This makes a gas engine easier to start even in cold weather and better acceleration. Also, there's no threat from the engine but a characteristic all too often observed in diesel engines. And lastly, gasoline engines have lower maintenance costs compared to diesel engines.

The handling. As mentioned earlier, the hatchback shape contributes greatly to the Swift's handling. But the rest of the part of the Swift is the Magic (coil strut set-up (front) and torsion beam (coupling setup (rear), which when matched with electronic power-assisted steering make it easy to maneuver on the streets.

The safety systems. ABS and electronic brake force distribution (which are key components in the Swift's handling. But the rest of the part of the Swift is the Magic (coil strut set-up (front) and torsion beam (coupling setup (rear), which when matched with electronic power-assisted steering make it easy to maneuver on the streets.

The safety systems. ABS and electronic brake force distribution (which are key components in keeping power from triple digit speeds. And should you experience an accident, dual airbags and side impact beams protect any occupants from serious injury.

The pricing. Did we mention that the Swift is value for money? What's more, it is now even easier to own one because dealers are offering sweet deals on the Swift.

The fact that it's a Suzuki. Much like the other vehicles in the Suzuki lineup (the Alto, Celerio, SX4 Crossover/SX4 Acro, APV, Jimny, Grand Vitara and Carry Pick Up), the Suzuki Swift is known for reliability.

Chevy Motorama

February 18 to 20, 2011 SM Mall of Asia Music Hall

From February 18 to 20, 2011 Chevy invades SM Mall of Asia Music Hall for the biggest Chevy Motorama event of the year. Event highlights include the official launch of Chevrolet's newest car on offer, the Chevrolet Spark. Set for its public introduction on the 19th, the all-new Chevrolet Spark is expected to demonstrate to the public why it stands out in combining function with fun in one attractive package.

Guests on the fifth will also be treated to live performances by singer/performer Karylle and a special guest appearance of Chevy brand ambassador, Ryan agoncillo. Following the stellar performance and presentation of the Spark is a visual spectacle with this year's Philippine International Pyro Musical Olympics co-sponsored by Chevrolet Philippines - The Covenant Car Company, Inc. (TCCCI).

Car enthusiasts, don't let this opportunity of test-driving the latest Chevy vehicles pass you by. Not only is it possible to find the best Chevy that fits your lifestyle, but test driving a Chevy gives you a chance to try your luck at the Peel-a-Prize promo for more freebies that include fuel cards, exclusive Chevy merchandise, and special gifts such as Papa John's Pizza GCs, Transformers DVDs, Von Dutch shirts, magazine subscriptions and other cool prizes.

As you purchase your new Chevy car which comes with that Chevy prestige, Chevrolet Philippines - The Covenant Car Company, Inc. (TCCCI) adds a few extras to further sweeten the deal. For every purchase of a Chevy Cruze LT or LT or Chevy Aveo LT, you get an iPad or iPod Touch absolutely FREE.

The annual Motorama is a huge event for old and new Chevy enthusiasts. Even children and soon-to-be Chevy patrons will enjoy themselves as they pose and have their photos taken next to the 10-foot tall auto-robot that is another high spot of the event.

Participation and registration in the Chevy Motorama is FREE and open to all! Don't forget to tag along your friends or family and drop by to experience some Chevy love! See flyers or visit www.chevy.com.ph for more details.

The Chevy Motorama is supported by FHM magazine, Hobbiestock Collectibles, Papa John's Pizza, Power Mac, SM Mall of Asia, Solar Entertainment Corporation, Topgear Philippines, United International Pictures and Von Dutch.

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Mitsulancerph's 7th anniversary

Lancer owners hold 80th grand eyeball event at Ortigas Home Depot Complex

MITSULANCERPH (MLPH) Inc is a car club which started back in 2004 by Chino Angeles with an online forum (www.mitsulancerph.net) which caters to Mitsubishi Lancer owners in the country. Since then, the club has now more than a hundred active members who regularly attend its club meets held on the last Saturday of each month. From all the generations of the 10th edition Lancer owners represented in the club, starting from the First generation Lancers up to the current model, the club also actively participates in various locally sanctioned motorsports competitions like the Run What You Bring (RWYB) Races and Slalom Competitions. This allows its members to hone and show their racing skills on the track and not on the streets.

MLPH celebrated its seventh year recently with its 80th grand eyeball event last Jan. 29, at the Ortigas Home Depot (OHD) grounds. The theme was back to basics, where Lancer lovers and enthusiasts held a meet-and-greet in the gigantic parking lot of the OHD complex. With an attendance over 300 members, with autos coming all the way from Iloilo, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas and Pampanga, the Ortigas Home Depot Complex has fast become a place for holding auto shows and car club gatherings, fondly called "EBEs" or "eyeball events". With its expansive parking and wide choice of restaurants and bars in the vicinity, these events are reminiscent of festive open car park gatherings of the 1980s where car enthusiasts gather together in commercial parking lots to showcase their cars and visitors are expected to mingle with the car owners, have their photos taken beside these rarely seen cars. Unlike most indoor car shows, these cars will not be confined off and visitors can view these cars up close.

EARLY generation Lancers on display

LANCER owners at the Home Depot grounds

THE Alterra Urban Cruiser is one perfect partner for those who love to visit exciting destinations

Perfect partner

IPC made the Alterra Urban Cruiser much more affordable with new Zen variants that costs P1.398 (manual 4x2) and P1.498 (manual 4x2 pearl color). The premium variant now costs P1.698 (pearl colored automatic 4x4).

Text and photos by Charles E. Rubio

"ENDEAVOR" 10 probably one word that best describe Isuzu's sport utility vehicle, the Alterra.

Introduced in 2006, the Alterra remained a favorite among buyers looking for a ride that could go the distance, tackle almost any road condition and at the same time, let its occupants travel in relative comfort.

To start, this entire has already seen action perioned how tough and reliable this SUV on various road trips around the country.

"Alterra's dependable engine, roomy interior and comfortable ride has endeared us to a lot of Filipino motorists. This is why we promised ourselves to continue to look for ways on improving the model, make it stand out from so many good good SUVs on the market today" said Isuzu Philippines Corporation president Ryoji Yamazaki as he congratulated participants who just finished the "Isuzu id. sorra Urban Cruiser: An All-Terrain Challenge" event held at the Pico de Loro Beach and Country Club in Batangas.

It's interesting to note that IPC now call their SUV as Alterra Urban Cruiser.

Adequately equipped

"As an Urban Cruiser", we wanted buyers to know that the Alterra is adequately equipped to tackle their every city comfortable. Thanks to its 3.1 surround entertainment system, powerful stereo, comfortable seats, ample leg and head room, even at long intercity trips more bearable," explained Yamazaki.

Apart from additional exterior colors added to the lineup (Starzbio Blue for two-tone variants, and Diamond Gray Silky Gold White, Sterling Silver and Starry Black for monotone tones), IPC informed that the Alterra Urban Cruiser now sports chrome accents on door mirror covers and body side moldings. The fuses and rear door sills are also redesigned.

IPC SVP Yuki Kato shared that considering that most of Alterra Urban Cruiser buyers are successful individuals with families who love to travel, IPC insisted that its SUV could go the distance.

"The Alterra Urban Cruiser has ample torque (311 Nm) to make sure it has enough pulling power to negotiate steep mountain roads, muddy or rocky trails or wherever the family decides to take a vacation. Its reliable 3.0 liter common-rail direct-injection turbocharged engine is already Euro 3-compliant and more importantly fuel efficient (14.15 kpl. Its 76 liter fuel tank capacity ensures it will cover more kilometers between fuel fill ups," said Kato.

Tagline

This is also why IPC adopted the tagline "For the Journey that Matters" to highlight these qualities in the numerous activities it has line up this year.

Yamazaki explained that last week's event is just a taste of what the company has prepared for 2011.

"For this particular event, we wanted to test Cabin Diesel with Turbine D fuel as well as Biodiesel, Teva, Thailand, 199 GH Road House, Uechiki and Elite Multi-Sport Resources (which conducted a demolition bike clinic to the participants prior to the event) in organizing the drive and mountain bike event. So participants negotiated the variety mountain road of Nasugbu, they were welcomed by the serene and relaxing accommodation offered by Pico de Loro Cove. This is a secluded paradise where they could have second, swim, dive or ride a bike," described Yamazaki.

Yamazaki added that IPC intends to prove in its forthcoming marketing campaign that the Alterra Urban Cruiser is a lifestyle-related vehicle that perfectly complements would be owners who love adventure, are active in various sport activities or just enjoy getting out of the city and driving to some fun-filled places.

"We wanted the Alterra Urban Cruiser to be more ride when they finally get to that place they were just convincing before," he said.

Direct Link awards Netbook Raffle winners

DIRECT Link announced recently the winners of its Netbook Raffle. The event marked the culmination of the 1-month activity that ran from July 1 – Dec. 31 2010.

"It proves like this is our backdoor move to elevating insurance awareness and to promote responsible driving" said Mia Grace N. Yabut, general manager of Direct Link.

"If offering a fancy prize is what it takes to successfully convey the importance of car insurance and to get the driving public interested in becoming insured, then we don't mind spending for such a good cause" Yabut added.

The netbook raffle was intended for new Direct Link comprehensive car insurance policies signed up between July and December 2010. The winners received their respective MSI Netbook during the awarding ceremony held last Feb. 4. The lucky winners were Rosario Perez from Parañaque, Rodolfo Cornia from Makati, Mary Ann Macias, Margaret Lim and Ferdinand Lee Carifio all from Quezon City.

Yabut shared, "Direct Link plans to continue offering raffle promos to other acknowledge clients for choosing Direct Link as their car insurance brand."

Since its entry in the car insurance sector in 1998, Direct Link has introduced a number of unique perks from Free 5 Fast and EC Tag, to thousands-worth of gas cards, hefty premium discounts and use of the country-wide, among others.

"All of these promos are towards our goal of enticing the driving public to get car insurance, thus better securing every motorist's everyday driving experience," Yabut noted.

SHOWN are the winners of Direct Link Netbook Raffle along with officers of Direct Link. From left, Edgardo D. Rosario, senior vice president of UCPB GEN; Margaret Lim; Rodolfo Cornia and spouse; Ferdinand Lee Carifio; Mia Grace N. Yabut, General manager of Direct Link; and Noel Pangilinan Almazan, marketing head of Direct Link.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of Direct Link Netbook Raffle Promo

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Brothers in dance

It takes a lot of faith and determination to practice for seven months just to perform before thousands for four minutes. Members talk about how the La Salle Green Hills AirForce became the country's street dance champions

By Pole Mariñas
Student contributor, La Salle Greenhills

RECENTLY champs in the last Shoehorn Street Dance Competition, The La Salle Green Hills AirForce made their name on the dancefloor at the contest.

Antonio Bicong, Mark Talampoco, and Derek Chanco belong to this dance squad.

They have incredible moves.

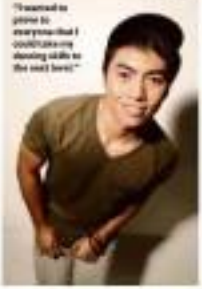
How they are together.

What made you try out for the LSGH AirForce?

Derek: My friends who were from the group kept urging me to join. I didn't mind them at first because dancing wasn't really my thing, but I tried out two summers ago and got into it.

Mark: I initially wanted to join AirForce, but didn't think I was good enough. But I wanted to prove to everyone that I could take my dancing skills to the next level.

Ramsay: It was in the summer of 2008 when I joined a basic (non)-class at Ateneo Central...that's where I learned the basics.



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Brothers in dance

"IT TAKES a lot of hits and near-misses for a team to practice for seven months; just to perform before thousands of people for four minutes." — MICHAEL JOSEPH JACKSON

From page C1

mentals and, more importantly, I had the greatest time dancing, so I didn't want to stop after that.

What was it like, the first time you danced for AirForce?

Derek: It was one of the best moments of my life. I walked. I was no longer part of the crowd cheering, but performing on stage in front of the whole audiovisual body.

Mark: I felt ecstatic because I was given the chance to perform with my teammates in the most prestigious dance competition in the country.

Ramsey: It was universal in our school, all of us first timers were, of course, nervous yet excited. After that performance, I was overwhelmed because the audience liked it and I knew from it felt so good to dance on stage.

What was training like?

Derek: It was so intense, especially this past Christmas training, created chemistry among us. We liked the whole team. Our coach taught us how to aim for the best for the glory of God.

Mark: It was a challenge for the team, especially for our coach. We had to sacrifice most of our time practicing and polishing our dance. It takes a lot of faith and determination for a team to practice for seven months just to perform before thousands of people for four minutes.

Ramsey: We finished all our choreographies on time. We always look forward to getting dismissed from our classes because I'd always be so excited to train. We really enjoy each other's company. They say it's not about the dominance, but the journey.

Walking for your turn to perform during the competition, what was going through your mind backstage?

Derek: I remember how excited I was while the group before us was on stage. Everything just flashbacked: the team sings, the good and bad runs, our most intimate moments as a team and the moments we fought, the times when we thought we couldn't do anymore.

Mark: Two things were playing on my mind backstage, Mr. Power and God. I was thinking about what we've been through and how greatly we've improved since the first time we trained. I was thinking about how God helped us in this journey. I never felt so excited in my life. I was ready to face anything.

Ramsey: Knowing that there were thousands of people watching, we couldn't help but be extremely nervous. Backstage we just kept on practicing and practicing our steps and moves. We were all hyping up each other and, of course, praying.

How did you feel after AirForce was declared champion?

Derek: We knew who to thank first, God, then family. We could do nothing but stand proud on the stage with our heads held up high, smiling to the Big Man up there.

Mark: A lot of things went through my head. Everything went by fast. There, I thought of my teammates. All the hardships we've been through have finally paid off.

Ramsey: After a few jumps and screams with the team, I ran straight to my family. Knowing that all our hard work paid off was extremely overwhelming.

How do you guys plan to spread the gospel of ministry?

Derek: Aiming it for our selves never came to mind. The first thing we thought of was funding for our ministry.

Mark: I think the money could give us a lot of help. It will be used to upgrade our sound system in our training room. Most important, it will be used by future batches of AirForce.

Ramsey: The money will be spent on future AirForce projects, such as our dance. None of us has plans to spend it for our personal satisfaction, but for the benefit of AirForce as a whole.

"I HAD the greatest time dancing, so I didn't want to stop after that."

THE last time you signed your e-mail as "fantastic (666)" means you already know there is much warmth in that perception.

As with almost anything, there are unique advantages and disadvantages to modeling. Naturally, finding the middle ground has been my way of vast at times.

I'm a generally positive person and don't like to gripe, but maybe this is a call for me to dispel some untruths and set the record straight.

Please read this list with a smirk on your face, for I too, occasionally am to be sarcastic:

* Models totally get professional treatment (especially from thirty-ish MILL).

* Did you know some people think "modest" is synonymous with "GROT"?

* First evening of the day, and the lady tells you, "You have a beautiful name." Second evening of the day, the guy behind the camera says, your nose is way too big. Third evening of the day, clothes don't fit, making you feel like a whale! Fourth evening, "Sorry, you're too skinny!" By the time you get home, your mind is swimming in mixed messages and you try to remind yourself repeatedly that your mom loves you just the way you are.

* And my favorite: "Wow, you're smart girl!" *Cringe*

Let me tell you this...

It's completely useless to be physically attractive if you have nothing else to offer. Pushing an external beauty will only leave you feeling empty-er than you did when you started, so it is absolutely imperative to quit checking your reflection on the mirror every 20 minutes.

Instead, be in quiet reflection. Once you have a sense of self that has nothing to do with how you look, uh, then "modeling" becomes the most amazing vehicle ever created.

Independence. Healthy competition. Discipline. Travel. Social skills. Platform to make positive change. Connecting dare even say soul capturing beauty. Keeping the company of encounters. Initiative to take care of your body and health. Opportunity to appreciate behemoths, like business and advertising. Self-expression. Exposure to different cultures. Innovation. Inspiration.

In close: some people ask me how come I've stayed with the same modeling agency for the past 15 years. (Hesitant to say CoCaCoo's family's. It's very simple. We have an understanding. First, looks fade, but there is money to be made, so let's be professional.

Second, know that though it might not be said out loud, remember there is a "rule" before the word "model." —9

It seems we've stumbled upon a case of perception vs. reality here. From afar, people always think their lives must like someone else's, right? You are a Facebook status, a tweet or an article about someone and you go, "Wow, she must really have THE life."

But does she, really?

I've learned done it's not a matter of hopping into the VW zoo, or having your name or photo in every magazine or newspaper, that matters. But know what I'd actually prefer having? A loving and supportive family, a solid crew that is as supportive and honest, and a well-rounded life devoted to pursuing my goals. It's not that easy, but it's not impossible either.

Sarah

A model's glam life? Hey, it's not as glam as you think

Now playing:

"Well I tried first" —Drake (if only for the line "Grandparents, true love, chilling with no makeup on" that's before your on the ground, I know that you don't take it wrong.")

"Beauty Is Only Skin Deep" —The Temptations

It's completely useless to be physically attractive if you have nothing else to offer

Vicky

What I've learned is that the term "model" doesn't make you any better or less than someone else. It's a job in the fashion industry people work hard in, not a golden ticket through life.

It is a job that brings you a lot of attention, but note that there are a lot of people out there doing amazing things than deserve recognition, too.

There are a lot of people out there who do more extensive humble, inspiring, and who have kept their eye on the bigger picture. Most of them, however, choose to work invisibly, and without any yearning for the spotlight.

Being in the industry taught me to look at the beauty of a person for the things he or she IS/DO, not how he or she LOOKS.

I'm now immune who praises people for how they live their lives; with big dreams, strong opinions, immense acts of selflessness.

Their sparkle and and makeup? That's cool, but that out some later! Don't always believe everything written about a person in the media. No one will ever have it "easy" in life, because each home is different. But with or without the camera on, we all need to keep it real.—9

5 rules for smart—and fun—dating

Never treat your date like a loser, or you'll be one!

By Shel Lagarde
Contributor

AHEAD LIES is not like your business Pasay. Tonight—when you wear ill-fitting clothes with a giant flower appliqué. It isn't like riding on the school bus ribbon, smelling like a soccer team locker room with your crush seated next to you.

No matter your level of confidence and emotional security, first date can leave you feeling awkward and flabbergasted, unless you know how to date smart.

In the spirit of this dizzying season (Friday prophet), let me spell out the easy how-to's for you.

Check out the best Check Points and get blog love (that is, help) at Sassylyn.com's Fabvotes.

Rule No. 1: Sincerity

Dating should be fun—between two people with a considerable amount of mutual attraction. Even "blind dates" aren't as blind anymore...there's always Facebook for a little pre-screening.

Sure, you're inclined to put your best foot forward, but take care not to spend the whole time trying to impress your date or discovering him/her with flowery compliments that sound like Matthew Quadros came up with them and not you.

Forget the contrivances and go with sincerity every time. Make eye contact. Every so often is adequate, but staring is too much and ogling—not likewise mentally and be genuinely interested in what your date is sharing with you.

If you pay a compliment, say it from the bottom of your heart (but no need to say that: but just out loud!).

Rule No. 2: Money

Who's paying? In a "traditional" setup, it's the gentleman who foots the bill, but less people aren't believers of this premise anymore. Equal pane date might be one of them).

Whoever asked for the date should not satisfy pay.

Be still feel a gentleman should pay, unless you agree to go Dutch. While it's a tricky and uncomfortable topic to broach, it's always better to clear things up.

Rule No. 3: Appearance and promptness

The second refers to two things: making an actual appearance and easing about your physical appearance. A date is like any scheduled appointment, only a romantic one. You're supposed to show up on time, looking fabulous and smelling good.

Dress appropriately! Never don't forget your basic hygiene: wash whatever needs to be washed, shave whatever needs to be shaved). Prepare extra early, allowing for traffic, and other causes of delay.

If you're running late or can't make it for some valid reason (flaking out because your favorite movie is playing on ESPN doesn't count), make sure to give your date a proper notice. Call and don't text or IMm! Texting or sending a chat message is also in order.

Rule No. 4: Respect

Respect is the most important thing in any stage of any relationship, whether you're just friends, or just "hanging out," or openly dating, or going steady.

It's not just about being courteous and polite, or being on time and making an effort to dress well. It's about being sensitive to your date's needs and preferences.

If they differ from yours, move halfway. For instance, if your date is allergic to smoke, stick to smoke-free areas. If your date is vegetarian, go to vegan-friendly places.

Respect also applies to touchy issues, like religion, politics and exes. Timing is absolutely instrumental. It's best to veer away from these inappropriate topics, especially on the first date.

Rule No. 5: Timing

If it's all going the way you hoped...butterflies at first sight, fireworks and sparks all around, awesome conversation, and your date also turned out to be smart, funny, charming and sweet as you imagined—what's next? Should you put your arm on his shoulder? Should you lean on his shoulder? Or even give him a hug? Or should you hold hands with fingers-fingered?

Listen to your instincts. If it's obvious you're both having a great time, a little sweet-ness is okay, but nothing your mom or dad won't be proud of.

If your date is just "so so" and not having a wonderful time, refrain from texting your friends and broadcasting an official retraction that you are not having fun.

Never treat your date like a loser, or you'll be one! Regardless of how the night ends, remain nice (pleasant) and try to have a good time. You may see her it off as a couple, but you may just end up gaining a friend.

AFTERNOON STROLL. If you like making outdoors and people-watching, spend a laid-back afternoon in the park aspiring light-hearted talk to people-watch for. Food at save in a breezy top, sandy denim and snap on walk in shoes.

MOVIE AND COFFEE. Some people prefer this on a first date, as watching a movie gives them something to talk about over coffee. Look warm and relaxed in a long-sleeved shirt, a bit washed denim and stylish shoes.

ARTSY TRIP. If you and your date share a creative inclination, your common interests can bring you closer. Opt for a trip to a museum, an exhibit, open mic poetry night or a small café where your favorite artist is playing.

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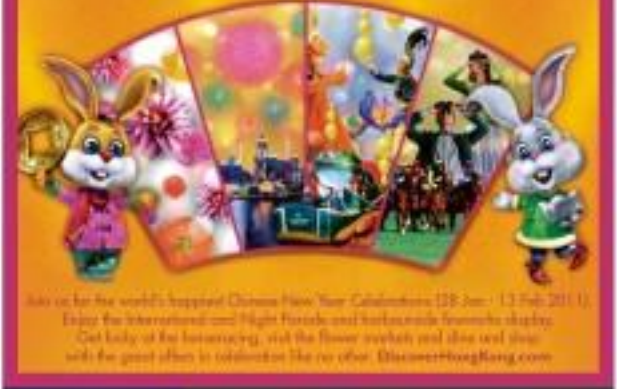
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Brooklyn's king of love letters

By Pam Pastor
Photos by JR Lujico

SOMEWHERE in New York, in an unnamed bar, there is a vending machine that sells old love letters. The person behind the love letters—and the machine—is Dan Treiber, a 30-year-old man who has had a lifelong love affair with letter writing.

"I have been writing letters my whole life. There is nothing more personal than pen on paper. Love letters historically have been among the most intimate things you can do for your partner. I wish I wrote more like I used to."

The idea to create a love letter vending machine hit him two years ago, right before he got married. "It seemed like a good time to purge some of my things. Out of respect for my wife, I wanted to get rid of some of my old love letters so I put them in a vending machine. I had sent just a lot of love letters that I had sent over a lot of the years."

Knick-knacks

Love letters aren't the only thing keeping Dan busy. He owns and runs Crafty Rewards, an indie record label that has been around for over 12 years, and Dan's Parrots Design, which sells all kinds of fantastic knick-knacks.

I met Dan at the Brooklyn Flea Market last November. My friends and I were passing over the precious finds in his booth when I spotted the love letters. There was a bright yellow vending machine that said "High school love letters and a couple of boxes of older letters, mostly from the '40s and '50s. I bought two—a high school love letter from the '50s for over a dollar and a love letter from the 1930s that cost me...

I read the letters just minutes later, on the subway headed back to Manhattan. The high school letter was written on notebook paper. "Do you like me too?" the letter writer wanted to know. She had big

LOVE LETTER/LOVE: Dan Treiber at the Brooklyn Flea Market

Dan Treiber doesn't just sell love letters—he reminds people of the magic of putting pen to paper

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One of the many letters in Dan's collection

Dan's home held so many stories.

Brooklyn's king of love letters

HIGH SCHOOL love letter vending machine.

CAN'S: Parents "House at Brooklyn Flea Market

...you receive... the boy she liked was Jewish, she was not. And would he like to hang out after school?

The second letter, which was still in its original envelope, was written by a man named Ira, cancer in 1952. He was in the navy during the Korean War and he was writing to Shirley, who was in San Francisco. He seemed to know how she was doing. "I have a letter to ask of you, my darling," he wrote. The girlfriend of his buddy from the war was moving to San Francisco and she knew no one there. "Would you please show her around?"

I was stunned. And as the subway car continued to speed away from the flea market, a shocking feeling hit me. I should have bought more letters.

And apparently, I'm not the only one who feels the same way. "I sell a ton of them," says Dan.

1,000 lovers

Dan doesn't just sell love letters. He reminds people of the magic of putting pen to paper.

"The art of the letter is dying. With the increasing prevalence of e-mails, text, and instant messaging, I see our means to take the time to hand write and mail out a letter anymore. The written word is becoming a thing of the past. It is my wish to change that." To me, he is the modern Ira.

He plans to do this with the 1,000 Letters Project. He is encouraging people to send him letters from all over the world. He will collect 1,000 letters, and the letters will be compiled in a 1,000 Letters 2 Inc. and could be set as installations that will be displayed in New York. And here's the best part...his second label will release the 1000 Letters CD, which will consist of songs about love written from Nicole Cosby. Nicole has met while traveling to...throughout the US. One of the original 1,000 letters will be enclosed with each CD so the person who will purchase it can write back to the letter writer.

"You will receive a letter from a perfect stranger and a letter written passionately will be hers. These letters will hopefully be the foundation of thousands of future handwritten letters brought on by this project," Dan writes.

Super regular to Dan about his project, vending machines, and the last set of letters vending.

Where do you get the love letters?

The first bunch of letters were from my personal collection. Most of the letters I get now come from estates, or people give me their old collections to help support the project.

How did you get the idea to sell them?

I have always loved vending machines. The mechanics and consciousness of them are great. One day the item ended up in my head as the same time and the love letter vending machine was born.

Where did you first start selling them?

The first machine was put in a bar in NYC. I never discussed where that was being in because it is full of my old letters. They're way expensive items that can't be sold in the machines. The next machine comes with me to Brooklyn Flea in the nine months in Fort Greene. I have a few machines lined up for the next few months but I am working out some details.

Do you read all the love letters you sell?

I read the first 100 or so. I don't actually have the time to read them all any more. Plus, I sort of like the fact that the people who buy them get the joy of the discovery.

Do you ever feel the need to keep a letter for yourself?

I don't feel the need to keep anything. Life is about the exchange of ideas and interactions, not the objects you own. Plus, one thing I have learned the last year or so is that everything is replaceable.

Do you have some favorite love letters?

Tough question. I like the letters that are from people who have been married for a long time. I like the letters that are from people who have been married for a long time. I like the letters that are from people who have been married for a long time.

Where did you get the love letters?

To be honest, the early and late stages are the best. I had a hunch from the start that...

The letters came over super busy. They talked about holding hands and the idea of dating and falling in love. Later they got really romantic and graphic. Let's just say I learned a few dirty things in high school. By the end they were fighting and blaming each other. I love the progression.

Do a lot of people buy them?

I sell a ton of them. In a perfect world they would only be in machines. However, right now I usually have a few in my book. Yes Flea Booth. People tend to stop and read and then. This is also when it's cheap, but a pain when I am home.

What kind of reactions have you gotten when people find out that you sell love letters?

Most people really like them. On occasion, I get angry guys call pissed off. They think they are historians and the collection should be saved and a whole so I am violating some sort of privacy. These people make my days more interesting.

Would you consider yourself a romantic?

Sure, why not. I believe in love. I believe you pursue the...

...to feel like the most important person on earth. They should make you feel the same way.

...tell us about Crafty Records.

The label has been around for 12 years now. We are an indie president artist-friendly record label based out of the Bronx. We have over 40 releases to our...

...ship. The main bands right now are: The Sweet Ones, Beach Wildcats, Jeremy and the Brains, The Rich Mastic Show, Chris Cantor, Matthew Miller and the Beagle Club, and Cedar Bands. They all rock a non-playing backyards, basements, and bars. Your best bet is to go to www.craftyrecords.com and listen for yourself.

Where do you get the awesome stuff you sell?

Almost 90 percent of the stuff I sell comes from my attic. Maybe...

...and another seven percent everything we have even had. Let's just say there's a ton of treasures left to uncover. The rest of the stuff I pick up around the US when I see an item with Crafty Records.

What's the weirdest thing you've sold?

I recall I sold a lot of Star Wars Glasses that were giveaways from Burger King from 1977-1980. Those sold several tens of all 12 record glasses.

Visit www.craftyrecords.com if you want to participate in the 1000 Letters Project, mail your letter to 1000 letters @ what's a Crafty Records 1132 ostby Street, Bronx NY 10461, USA.

Go-just date

Judging a person solely on his or her intellect is an arrogant, soulless move

By Adrian N. Cy

IN SHOWBIZ is a current essay that's gone viral online called "You Should Date An Illiterate Girl" by Charles Marsden, and, as a brave reader, a bit low-up essay that failed to grasp the Internet's irony entitled "Date A Girl Who Reads" by Emmanuelle Chapiron, causes me many that, apply enough for Valentine's Day, exasperation in itself.

Date a girl. Or a guy. Or a furry. Whatever floats your boat. Find that person standing out in the midst of your normal, day-to-day routine. Find that person by going out of your way to...

Preconceived definitions

Wherever you find that person, please I'll never refer to as a "furry" find love reading. Make sure it's a real world and not a plastic one. Get over your preconceived definitions of what your dream partner is. Her picking love notes from "When I Met You Mother." Ignore the stranger look she shoots you when you're reading that she finds "Community" to be superior. Remark at its significance. Take her to a bookstore. Ask if she considers herself literate. Why?

Ask the inane question you just asked much over the bush of you. Not read that you don't subscribe to an ex. say about dating illiterate girls. Build a bit now of solitude upon the fact that you didn't get the place's irony. Insist she isn't smart's attention at all.

Neglect to mention that you never finished reading the entire thing. Ignore her double-barreled nose. Mumble inaudibly about something else of no significance. Examine female thinking. Let the minutes pass unnoticed. Ask her to come over.

Let her choose the topic of conversation. Get into bulldozed debates about things now your head, things that hide into the background, as you dwell on your humiliation. Let an hour pass unnoticed. Begin to excite.

Figure out that you probably didn't need an hilarious excuse to get the courage to ask her out. Ask her out again on a place beyond your means. Make sure there is a beautiful view of the city. Quickly desire your utter gloss...

...where she asks if you consider yourself literate. Decide to covertly controvert if you feel your pride leap through a game of choice gloss.

If she lets you off the hook by purposefully dim smell. If she calls you out on it, accept it as if you've never been spotless. Point out that her value is unintended and made at her. Hope that it's inside and enough.

Let more dates pass, unattributed. Get a book or two. Read the IMDb's Notes. Have two DVDs of novel adaptations. Try to understand "Ulysses." Fail. Give everyone else.

Find your love a literal indifference. Have a solid ebook when she gifts you with another book. Go with it. Grieve as your lack of achievement. Feel frustrated, while reading, as if you're not made for more than graphic novels, young adult fiction. Feel boredom, as you go along with it, dabbling with other genres.

Fall madly in love. Change your IM relationship information, but only after you observe that the girl who called you dim is not reading enough online reads too little or too much, and the quite that, has a immense capacity to love.

On self-taught skills

Or these things because nothing sucks worse than a person who chooses not an immense wonderful because of an overwrought very spread online. Do it. I say, because judging a person solely on his or her intellect is an arrogant, soulless move that ought to get people banned from singles bars, speed dating, and general social interaction.

Do it, because a girl who doesn't understand spoken singles are the world from a different point of view and share that through dance, or art, or song. Like since has taught us that sarcasm of troublesome cover in episodic but honorable intervals, but a girl with common sense, compassion as it is very, knows that people are complex bodies with quality receptors. "Here, here," too.

In fact, date a girl who knows that "literature" is a big concept, different for each and every person. Be the one left you that one of the books you've read means, but one would still not know everything. The girl who reads knows near the intricable significance of no soul. Be an, too, does a singer at the end of a note, an athlete at the end of a lark, or an entrepreneur who seeks a new venture.

Don't date a girl who doesn't read because a novice says so. You with the iPad, you with the Android phone, you with the Kindle Fire. You discover on "Reddit, on Facebook, you on Twitter, you in the corner of cyberspace. You who deal in "likes" and "weblogs."

The girl who reads has space out the amount of her life and it is learning from a different point of view and sharing. She reads, thought. She reads in the corner for the other types of people, those who aren't as literate as her.

You will not accept the life that I told of at the beginning of this piece. You will not accept the life that pursues, and profession, and a girl who thinks Neil Gaiman is god. So not with you, narrow-minded literature lover. Take the next MRT and take your Hemingway with you.

I think you're foolish. Really, really, really foolish.

Online couples–and the icky online things they do

By Tricia Tang
Correspondent

FORGET showing love from the rooftops. Now it's all automated out on numerous social networks. Here are the top mistakes couples make online that make us (never, ever) wish we could "un-know" you.

1. Baby talk

"I really really miss you!" "You stuck tummy but in your bikini, I can't wait to get you over anyone!" Or, worse, "Hug someone on the bebe for! Baby at lyst my bebe." Unless either of you is still in diapers or take mainstream from a toddler regular, keep the baby talk off the public walls and save it for the pillow (Hey, whatever floats your boat!).

2. Status

Please put an end to our misery and overuse these status updates:

"Going to sleep now and missing the house. Will get to talk to my baby (name of S.O.) again. Mwah."

Any status thanking your significant other for coming into your life and saving you from boredom/loneliness/misplaced Venus.

Someone professing love in love you are with (insert full name you little sweet heart) will, with matching ring of gold proves.

Someone of lyrics of ballad love songs or badly composed poems.

3. "Candid" photos

Intimate photos of you kissing, hugging and other forms of bodily contact, whether sweet, can be candid...especially if the photos uploaded are in the bedroom, and fully at that. We're also not buying the "candid" photos of you hanging heads together and laughing; our camera has a three function, too. Uh, and we're totally

Beware the wrath of the scorned oversharer!

blocking you for reasons you guys post a self portrait of you half-clothed in bed.

4. Public shaming

In the face of your life turned out to be a shaming SOS video is now making you ask allow you caught him/her the angle, invented by Facebook. And now you want payback, so you shame your ex by posting proof of his fidelity... photos, videos, screenshots of naughty texts/emails. Guilt-free, a combination of your ex, his/her/it by over to, receive some words and some calling. Be sure the wrath of the scorned overshared.

While we cringe and berate couples of us feel that it wasn't us, we're kidding...we don't hate this post. Put away so we'll have something to talk about over lunch or when there's work to avoid at the office.

5. Joint account

There is such a thing as being too superficial, and creating a joint social network account for the two of you following that category. Once the honeymoon stage has passed, you'll be glad you created separate accounts to give each other space.

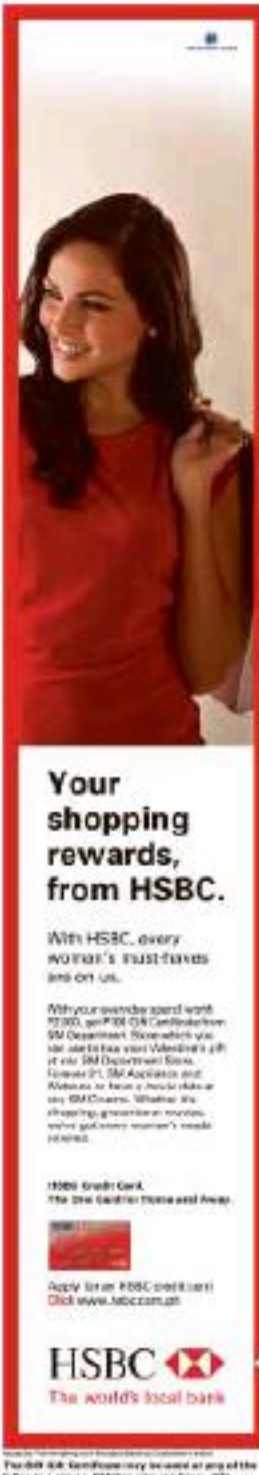
6. TMI (too much information)

We don't need to know where you're gone, what you've eaten and what gifts have been given and received in the span of your three-month old relationship. And yet we do, even if we don't want to know.

7. The slideshow

Oh, God, the slideshow. This is the most feared weapon in the hapy oversharing couple's arsenal. Ever since computers and websites made creating slideshows a breeze, we've been unwittingly privy to excessively done slideshows that cried soap opera episodes in length and dramatism.

Slideshows of pictures on the beach, in the park, at a restaurant, at a resort, at home...you name it, we've (sadly) seen it. Of course we could skip it and not watch it, but it's hard to resist, like that shadow like everyone loathes but that you have to see for yourself to prove just how bad it is.



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at SURPLUS

casual

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rugged

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hip

Get hip, yet stay comfy by layering crop top in coordinated colors! Try wearing cardigans over a halter top to feel warm during the last waves of the holiday breeze.

The New Year is a time of self-discovery. After all the holiday parties and revelry, it's time for some introspection, taking stock of the good and the bad, and making the most to bring out to bring out the best in you.

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SUPER! EXCLUSIVE

Deftones ready to rock Manila

Frank Delgado: 'If we could do a Prince song, that'd be cool'

By Angelo V. Ignacio
Entertainment

YES, KIDS, one of the biggest rock concerts to hit Manila this year is happening tonight, and right now, psyched Deftones fans either have "adrenaline" pumping in their veins or spinning to their mp3 players. (If you've been a fan since 1995, you'll know what the latter means.)

The California-based band composed of Chino Moreno (lead vocals and guitar), Stephen Carpenter (guitar), Chi Cheng (bass guitar), Frank Delgado (keyboards and turntables) and Abe Cunningham (drums and percussion), has made Manila its third stop in the Asian leg of its "Diamond Eyes" tour, and will be playing for our night only at the World Trade Center.

Quicksand's Sergio Vega has stepped in for Cheng, as the band's concerts hiatus, following the latter's embarrassing car accident in 2009 that left him in a coma.

Originally a metal-core band, Deftones has incorporated diverse genres into its music over the years, from The Cure to Depeche Mode to sweet funky, its fiercely solid rock aggression fueled by Moreno's rare almost surreal vocals.

"Diamond Eyes," the band's sixth and latest album, showcases a more sympathetic but no less powerful sound that dips and roars like a magnificent, screeching phoenix—a fitting tribute to their mythic namesake.

Here's what transpired during Super!'s quick phone chat with the affable Delgado before their Manila gig:

How's Chi doing?

He's made little progress, but... any progress is good. He's somewhere in the same state ("minimally-conscious"). He's in America where he's closer to [everyone], getting [around the clock care. Updates and stuff can be found in www.savechino.com.

Who will be your bassist for this tour?

It's [still] Sergio Vega, from the band called Quicksand. We've become good friends over the years and he recorded the entire album ("Diamond Eyes") with us, so it's great to have him on tour with us.

Speaking of "Diamond Eyes," you guys have said this is probably your most positive record to date. What's track do you think most represents your newfound optimism?

Oh, wow. If you try to be literal about it, then yeah, after all that's happened, maybe the record as a whole has a very good vibe to it. But it's not like we set out to make a positive record. It's more of not trying to make an album that's rejected from us. It's more about following our hearts and [making] ourselves.

Any favorites?

It all depends on my mood, actually, but I have a good time playing "You've Seen the Butcher" and another track called "Risk." We have a lot of fun with them.

It'll be your first time in the Philippines. What have you heard about the country so far?

Wow. Sure, huh? All I really have is that kids do take to rock music, and that it's a really beautiful country. I'm totally open for it. I have no idea what to expect. We only arrive at noon-time to-speed, but it's not possible. I hopefully we could get [to] dance to some funk.

Yeah, like maybe [see] you?

[Laughs] Yeah, that'll be great.

About the concert—can you give us a teaser? Will you be playing more songs from the old albums or from the new one?

Well, we're pretty [set around] with our set list. We usually [set some] up with it right before the show. I'm doing an make sure it is that we have a good mix of songs from all records, and it's not that easy to choose from six full-length albums. But it's going to be a pretty dynamic set, with lots of songs from "Diamond Eyes" and a lot from our previous albums as well.

Are you plans to play any of the songs from "Eros"? I know you don't have plans of releasing it anytime soon, but we're still hoping for a sneak peek.

Hmm, we haven't really done that at [around to it since] (Chi's accident). Maybe when things are better and we're comfortable with it once again. Hopefully that time will come.

About cover songs? Will you play anything from the "B-Sides" album?

We don't know yet. Possibly.

If you could do a cover song you haven't done yet, what would it be?

[Laughs] That's hard. We have a wide [palette of songs, and there's] just so many to choose from. But if we could do a Prince song, that'd be cool.

Any quick message for your Filipino fans who are dying to hear your guys play?

We're looking forward to it as much as [possible. Hopefully we haven't been away for] that long...until we hope you have a great time with us.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPPH BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PH_LOGOS

DICK TRACY

LOVE SHOTS BY ELIZABETH CHONGKOLD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE BY PAWA ABRERA

SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

Eyra

Lagingmatalong ng stores sa 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 1:00 PM Lunes hanggang Biyernes

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK BY PAWA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCE CRAWE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Whether your propensity talk to others about your hopes and dreams for the future, because you're a natural self-starter, it's time to get moving.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Don't be afraid to act on your instincts even right now. You are very much in touch with your own feelings and feelings. Only time will reveal.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Don't waste chances to interact with others. Your positive attributes allow you great success in your career. Trust your instincts and people in authority.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't worry so much about what others think of you. Be open about your feelings.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Try to get more sleep now. You need your rest. But the time is on its way. Keep your eyes on it and you'll be able to use your talents to your advantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Because you are motivated to get better organized, give yourself the right tools. You'll do a good job. Your planning, management, goals, charting or personal things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan a vacation. Have romantic, enjoy dining, but involved in sports and physical activities with children. There are all choices that will please you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Family discussions accomplishments may arise. Issues about real estate, home repairs and visiting guests have to be considered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Before going at a busy pace over Much later, certainly, be prepared to deal with siblings, and neighbors. Be extra cautious with writing and studying are some things that need your flexibility.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You've got an overwhelming urge. We're there down, and this can mean a lot when. There's a good time to explore opportunities in business and communications.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) An environment, home and love issues on your. This is why you're charged with energy. Because these patients attract responsibilities and opportunities. Get to work, make the most of them.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You're making sound plans, perhaps to go along with some people. I'm more of us. No, we all plan to talk each of how often. We matter.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

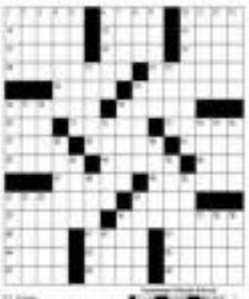
8	4	1	3	6	2	5	9	7
3	6	2	5	9	7	4	1	8
5	9	7	1	8	4	3	6	2
1	2	6	4	7	3	9	8	5
9	7	4	8	5	1	6	2	3
8	5	3	6	2	9	7	4	1
2	1	9	7	4	6	8	5	3
6	3	5	9	1	8	2	7	4
4	8	7	2	3	5	1	9	6

Concepts Sudoku By Steve Hanna

7	6						3	1
		5	9	2		4		
			6		4	5		
		3		5		6		
		1	7		9			
		8		4	1	9		
4	3						2	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Super V-day Mushfest 2011

By Regvie V. Ignacio
Contributor

Who says romance is overrated? Not us, that's for sure. From the old-time favorites to the semi-obscure, we've put together mini-playlists of some of the most romantic ballads to put you in the mood on this day of hearts. Enjoy!

'Harana' songs

They just don't make quality love songs like they used to. Gone are the days when the airwaves were filled with only sweet, heartfelt ballads that speak of love and not lust. And whatever happened to good old liquorice? Maybe these melancholy classics will help evoke the old traditions this V-day, all it takes is a guitar, decent vocals and any of these songs, and girls will be putty in your hands.

#1: Mr. Big's "To Be With You"

One bit wonder or not, this '90s band definitely makes history with the ultimate love song ever written, one that can turn any girl into a gooey puddle of mush. (FYI: They're coming to Manila on May 13 to serenade us themselves, but sans the long hair and the grunge outfits. Yawn! Sorry, typical!)

Apo Hiking Society's "When I Met You"

Inspirational, romantic and timeless is what this song is, but it's hardly surprising, coming from one of the most respected OPM artists in history. Kudos to composer Jim Paredes for reminding people what an awesome feeling it is to be in love.

The Beach Boys' "Don't Worry Baby"

Originally from our grandparents' era, this classic was revived in our generation through the flick "Forrest Gump Blared." (It's playing in the scene where Jenny Curran's character got her first real kiss from Michael Mayne in elementary. Sniff. Cute.)

U2's "All I Want Is You"

This song was playing in the background right before Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke's climactic reunion in "Reality Bites." Making like Ross's heart-wrenching reunite to make you realize how much you love someone before it's too late.

Parokya Ni Edgar's "Harana"

Legend has it that composer Eric Papenaga couldn't sleep because he kept thinking about this one girl, so he sat down and wrote this song for her, all in one night. To the composer's inspiration, whoever you are, thank you for helping us keep the liquor traditions alive.

Rated 'R' (for 'Romance')

If the opening runs of Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On" and George Michael's "Careless Whisper" now make you snicker instead of swoon, it's time to revamp your playlist. Luckily for us, there are other equally intimate songs that can put us in the mood for some lovin'. Don't say you weren't warned.

Chris Isaak's "Wicked Game"

"Yes, I don't wanna fall in love," he crooned in that silky voice. Nevertheless, he's got swooning ladies wishing he did back in the day. The guy sure knows how to put the "sexy" in sexiness, as shown in his steamy music video with a young Helena Christensen.

Paolo Nutini's "Loving You"

He may be young, but the Scottish sensation's definitely got that Marvin Gaye groove going on. It's the track, his raspy lilting vocals can make any girl blush.

Color Me Badd's "Close To Heaven"

The R&B quartet's harmonies made ladies' hearts melt back in the '90s, especially when they switch to Spanish. This song is the perfect example.

Jeff Buckley's "Everybody Here Wants You"

This poetic, sensual ballad by the late great singer/songwriter never fails to make me, um, hmm, drop to the floor from straight guys get turned on by this song.

Donna Bankers's "This Is My World"

If you've watched "Shallow Hal," you'll recognize this as the song playing during Jack Black and Gwyneth Paltrow's love scene. The former Honks And The Heartfelt frontman's throaty vocals will help set the mood for any smooth or seductive.

Obscure boy band ballads

Away na Sila's "Nine Kids On The Block or Sick"

Away na Sila's "Nine Kids On The Block or Sick" since days ballads this time—this playlist is reserved for those all-male pop groups that weren't quite as big but managed to release some insanely romantic duvets that saved them from total oblivion. Well, almost. Check out their vids on YouTube and relive the whole '90s bubblegum pop experience.

LFO's "I Don't Wanna Kiss You Goodnight"

When news of founding member Rich Cronin's death broke late last year, people started remembering how big and '00s-ing during their songs were. This surprisingly sweet ballad earns them a spot in our mp3 playlists.

O-Town's "All Or Nothing"

These pretty boys were the product of BSP's now-defunct reality show "Making The Band," and their popularity has long since a short but sweet lifespan. As the group's new unwanted single, the power ballad is an emotional, it can potentially squeeze tears out of a rock.

Ace & Deo's "Falling"

Formerly known as JC & Duncan, the quirky British duo stole our hearts with this unexpected ballad, then left back into obscurity.

Another Level's "From The Heart"

The '90s pop group's (only?) claim to fame was this song from the "Dating Life" soundtrack. Too mushy? Maybe, but we still love it.

112's "Peep"

The R&B trio, composed of Jackson 5 alums actually had good harmonies and released a bunch of great ballads, including "Anything" and "I Need You." This particular track deserves special attention because their proud uncle, Michael, actually produced this song with them.

Top-40 favorites

These songs of current pop artists make us believe that good ol' romance can still survive in this era of lyrical debauchery.

Adele's "Make You Feel My Love"

This heartfelt female spin on the Bob Dylan classic gives us ladies a good excuse to take charge and do the serenading for a change.

Jon McLaughlin's "So Close"

We must've watched "Enchanted" a million times just for this beautiful, bittersweet song. One of the most romantic soundtracks in recent times, hands down.

Lifehouse's "You And Me"

Many newlyweds must've danced to this song during their wedding, and for good reason. It can't get any sweeter than this.

James Morrison's "You Give Me Something"

For some reason, James Morrison's smoky vocals make the heartaches in our romantic ran scrub. It doesn't hurt that his lyrics are unbelievably touching, too.

Doublemint Confectionery's "Stolen"

This rock ballad has been the requisite prom night dance it was released, and is a strong contender along with Lifehouse's "You And Me" as the "Wedding Song of the Decade."

Impress for less

Deal Grocer's new offers promise an unforgettable date for couples on Valentine's Day

By Tizie Yang
Lifestyle Editor

EVENT: Walk about area at Deal Grocer's Valentine's collection.

THE PREMISE is create a memorable evening is sure to weigh heavily on people in love this Valentine season.

Deal Grocer, one of the luxury group buying sites out there using offers in/most of personalized deals together with new and familiar partners to provide consumers unique activities for V-day.

There's the "Journey has off late love" Presidential Suite Package at the posh Ayala Hotel and Casino Manila, ideal for those who don't want to brave the inevitable heavy traffic and crowds everywhere. For anyone planning to pop the question or for the adventurous, get a helicopter ride courtesy of Mabuhay Aviation to a choice destination at a reduced price—you'll be hard-pressed to top this one out there.

Other romantic treats include handmade Belgian chocolates by Chef Lumilen, bespoke shirts via popular Hong Kong tailor Arcot Chang, four-course dinner and wine buffet at Hardware and a lot more.

As with any good deal, the key is to act fast, as these are offered in limited quantities and for a limited time only.

Deal Grocer is also raffling off an overnight stay for two at The Farm at San Benito's luxurious Nature's Suites.

For more details check out www.dealgrocer.com.

VALENTINE'S DAY, THE NOVA WAY

1 Makeover Mouth
Buy new clothes. Get a new do. Hit the gym. Eat healthy. But for heaven's sake don't starve yourself.
Looking good on Valentine's Day may have a price but nothing you should cut back.
You can still have as much as you want with Jack 'n Jill Nova Multigrain Snacks. Each Nova chip is made with assorted grains like corn, wheat, rice and oats. These grains could increase your body's water holding capacity, which can result in reduced cravings of food in the stomach. The result is a fuller, more satisfying feeling.

2 Double and Dare
Valentine's Day is a time that gets crowded. So, invite and to the things up on your dates plan after you!
Embellish your Valentine Celebration with an unexpected Combo!
Travel out of town.
Go bonding/dining together.
Go caroling. And always make sure to bring a pack of Nova with you because each serving gives energy and a gram of fiber to keep you going.

3 Drop Out and Dine
It's the default setting.
Making a restaurant reservation is a standard action in comes to Valentine's Day. But instead of spending your hard earned cash on fine dining restaurants that offer miniscule servings, start cooking dinner for your loved one. And while you're at it, eat Nova as a substitute ingredient in your salads, noodles, soups and desserts!
Have one bite of what awaits you you can but we'll have the rest of that's in you.
This Valentine's Day, do as much as you want for the one you love with Jack 'n Jill Nova Multigrain Snacks.
Nova is available in five delicious flavors—Country Cheddar, Homestyle BBQ, Summer Salad, Italian Herbs and Garlic Parmesan.

SM ADVANTAGE
LAUNCHES NEW CARD DESIGNS

SM Advantage Loyalty Program unveils its new designs for the SM Advantage and SM Prestige Cards. The new cards sport fun icons that represent the broad spectrum of shopping opportunities offered by SM and its affiliate establishments. Members may now use their new cards to enjoy more exclusive discounts and privileges everytime they shop at SM.

SHOPPING REWARDS

Reward Points

Just present your SM Advantage and SM Prestige Cards to earn and redeem reward points at SM retail establishments including **Forever21** and **Pet Express**, and at select Non-SM retail and leisure partners.

3-Day Sale Exclusives

Take advantage of special discounts and exclusive offers during the 2-hour Special at the 3-day Sale events. Plus, no worries when it comes to parking, we've reserved spaces exclusively for members.

SMAC Treats

Enjoy **more discounts and freebies** from hundreds of popular partner establishments in and out of SM Supermalls with the SMAC Treats program. Share them with family and friends!

Members-Only Sale

Don't miss out on great buys! Get special discounts and great offers from SM retail partners, during sale events held exclusively for SMAC and BDO Rewards members.

The New SM Advantage and SM Prestige Cards

New look with more exclusive rewards and privileges.

The SM PRESTIGE CARD
premium rewards for the elite shopper

Exclusive offers and shopping privileges from a list of prestigious lifestyle partners.

The SM ADVANTAGE CARD
one card, endless rewards

The country's leading loyalty program that rewards members with points every time they shop in over a thousand partner establishments nationwide.

EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGES

Petron Go Up

Go up at participating Petron stations nationwide and earn SM Advantage Points. Watch out for special offers and promos every now and then, exclusively for members.

PLDT Telerewards

Pay your bills on time and earn SM Advantage Points with PLDT Telerewards. Enroll your SM Advantage membership into the PLDT Telerewards program by calling 171 or 101-811, or by logging on to www.pldt.com.ph/telerewards and start earning points based on your payment transactions.

SM Mall Rewards

Make shopping more fun and exciting! Earn and redeem points when you shop in more than a thousand non-SM stores inside SM Supermalls nationwide.

Globe Rewards

Convert your Globe Rewards to SM Advantage points, by simply keying in designated codes. Applicable to members with Globe Pre-paid and Touch Mobile (TM) numbers.

GETAWAY DEALS

Taal Vista Hotel

Enjoy great offers and discounts while indulging in the scenic view and fresh mountain air at Taal Vista Hotel. Special room rates at more than 40% discount await members who are looking for a refreshing break away from the city grind.

Radisson Blu in Cebu

The queen city of the south adds another jewel to her crown with the Radisson Blu Hotel. Avail of special room rates perfect for your out-of-town getaway trip, and indulge in the delectable offerings at the Feria Restaurant.

HEALTHY TREATS

Goldilocks Healthitopay

Get a free Healthitopay when you present your SM Advantage, SM Prestige or BDO Rewards Card with a minimum P188 purchase of bakeshop products at any Goldilocks store until March 31, 2013.

EXTRA VALUE

Charity Insurance Coverage

Avail of the Charity Personal Accident Insurance Coverage of up to P100,000.00 for only 20 SMAC Points. For more information call the SM Advantage Hotline at 833-0888 (for Metro Manila) or 1-800-10-833-8888 (for areas outside Metro Manila), or visit our website at www.smadvantage.com.ph.

super LIFESTYLE

Tamis ng Loveteam

The sweetest, most romantic way Double Delight Cake!
Pinagsanib ang matamis ng Cherry Chery Extraordinary
at Choco Cherry Jubilee - topped with
marashino cherries & luscious chocolate
Bagay ang sarap! Perfect match talaga!

goldilocks

SUPER LOVE MACHINE

Single? Super wants to set you up!

WE KNOW you. You love yourself but you're sick of spending your Saturday night alone. Your friends are great, but set on days when they are busy with their own boyfriends and girlfriends. You want your own date in town, but you haven't met anyone you want to date. You're great, you're smart, you have so much to offer, so where the hell is he? Or she?

Super wants to help end your search.

Here's how it will work. Fill out this application form and e-mail it to: [illegible] with your photos. We will read your form and try to find you a match. We will plan a date we think you will enjoy. And here's the best part—your first date is on us!

We will circulate your fun stats in these pages. What you do after is up to you.

SUPER LOVE MACHINE (Application Form)

Title
Name:
Gender:
Age:
Birthday:
Complete Help Stamp (can't stamp, you have to be single):
Religion:
School:
Course:
Occupation:
Company:
Employed (or unemployed but looking):
Hobbies:
Blog URL:
E-mail address:
Mobile number:
Home address:
Describe yourself in five words:
Favorite books:
Favorite band/musician:
Favorite movie:
Favorite food:
Favorite restaurant:
Celebrity crushes:
What are your hobbies?
What are you passionate about?
How do you relax?
Do you smoke?
Do you drink?
Hobbies:
Any extra requests?

Any strange obsessions?
What's the craziest thing you've done?
YOUR DATING HISTORY
Your last relationship ended because:
Most embarrassing date moment:
Worst thing heard on a date:
Can you fit inside with an ice?
Best date ever:
Did you ever make moves on a date?
YOUR DATING SEX
Five things you look for in a date:
Do you believe in love at first sight?
What kind of place to meet someone:
Do you believe in love online?
Best dating song ever:
Would you kiss on the first date?
Best date scenario in Manila:
If you could date a movie character, who would it be?
What would I get a date for you?
Best date movie:
YOUR SEX
You want to date [ ] a man [ ] a woman
How qualified you look for it (1-10):
Will you date someone from another religion?
Will you date someone older than you?
Will you date someone younger than you?
Will you date someone who smokes?
Will you date someone who drinks?
What are your sex inspirations and deal breakers?
Complete this sentence: I will never date someone who: _____
YOUR DATES WITH
What is your idea of a perfect first date?

Catch the 2011 Philippine Jazzfest live at the Ayala Malls.

Feb 11, Glorietta: Mid-Winter JAZZ with 4 MIP, Big Band, Noel Cabangon, Rosanna Ibarrientos (Singapore)
Feb 12, Alabang Town Center: HEART AND SOUL featuring Smokhal and Absolute Zero
Feb 13, Bonifacio High Street: LOVE NITE featuring Silk, Akalou Yokogawa and Ishmael Gano, Working Girl
Feb 20, Greenbelt: Low Cal, Logic Band (Australia) • **Feb 21, Greenbelt:** Ric Istaco (Los Angeles), Cecilia Oakville (San Francisco), Doug Little (U.S.A.)
Feb 22, Greenbelt: Candini presents: Wolfika Adams • **Feb 23, Greenbelt:** Aya Komori and Adam Ben Ammar (Israel)
Feb 24, Greenbelt: Jon Hallagan (New York), Gong Mynong (Korea)

Glorietta 752.7272 · Greenbelt 757.6868 · Alabang Town Center 842.2782 · Bonifacio High Street 856.9523

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2848

Graphics/Design: Ruben Joshua Cunio

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Makati Shang offers 14 days of romance

DURING FEBRUARY, the month of love, Makati Shangri-La, Manila offers guests the opportunity to experience a different kind of romantic season and celebrate not one, not even two, but 14 days of romance. Every day from Feb. 4 to Feb. 17, Makati Shangri-La gives guests various reasons to celebrate with your loved ones, either in gastronomic delights or in the luxury of a peaceful retreat in the city.

Start off with Makati Shangri-La's Valentine Resort Package, valid on the weekends of Feb. 4 and 11, where local couples can stay over in an executive room for P14,044 per night. The offer includes Mercedes Benz pick up with in Metro Manila, a bottle of wine, long-stemmed roses and pralines on arrival day, buffet breakfast for two at Circles Food Café, and a dining credit of P1,000 per night.

Come the day of hearts on Feb. 14, be serenaded at the Lobby Lounge by an exquisite performance of soul singer Bea Tiaoseco while indulging in a Valentine dinner buffet for P2,500 per person.

The hotel's Valentine season will run until its feast at De Pinxi the on Feb. 17, for the Full Moon Party, where guests can witness the exciting performances of flame and tribal dancers while channeling the island fire in the middle of the city with the hypnotic chillout tunes spun by DJ Shaun and DJ Chrisel.

For more inquiries on Makati Shangri-La's 14 Days of Valentine's or to make reservations, please call our Restaurant Reservations and Information Centre at 813-9888 local 7599 / 7599 or e-mail res.sles@shangri-la.com. For more reservations, please call 813-8888 local 7345 / 7346 or e-mail reservations.sles@shangri-la.com. Alternatively, log on to www.shangri-la.com.

Valentine kisses at Crowne Plaza

SHOWER THE most important person in your life with Italian Valentine kisses only at Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria. A sweet Italian treat, Cioccolatini Baci will be given away to every Juliet that will dine at either Seven Corner's or the Sun Dial Restaurant on Feb. 13 and 14. For Valentines Day, Crowne Plaza's romantic couple is sure to be one of the most romantic destinations in the world. Juliet, where the couple's romance will be in the atmosphere, delicious dishes and exceptional wine set the mood for a special Valentine's celebration. Seven Corners restaurant offers a fine Italian dinner for only P3,500++ inclusive of a glass of Prosecco Wine. Xin Tao Di reasonable offers couples a sate take on Chinese Cuisine. Executive Chinese chef Sam Lee creatively combined signature Italian ingredients with Chinese dishes re-defining the Valentine festive menu. Prices start at P1,888 net/ table of two. This delectable set menu is offered at only P1,300++ per person inclusive of a glass of Prosecco Wine. Reserve your Valentine date at Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria. For information and reservations at Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria's Valentine offerings, call 633-7333 or email rsv.manila@ihg.com.

Valentine bonding at Marriott Manila

PUTTING our experience for the whole month of February to a sweet surrender to Marriott Manila's Ocean Spa. Delight an newly-crowned darling to luxurious customized treatments and be relaxed from tensions and trailers, for only P1,750 net, packaged for two. Veer away from the traditional Valentine celebrations and experience health and healing with Ocean Spa's couple package for two. Couples receive heavenly treatments on Pearl's day? Never had left out with Ocean Spa's single package for only P1,300 net and experience the same detoxifying treatments that will surely pamper to the hilt. For more information, please call 832-0888 local 6888 or visit www.marriott.com/mnlap.

It's all about the heart at Hilton Cebu

IT'S ALL about the heart at Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa. Two wonderful opportunities await at this picturesque resort. Dinner and the sweet sound of violin is what you and your partner hunny on a date. Seas Restaurant's seafood degustation menu is perfect for a truly romantic affair. As a gift, each couple will get a 30 minute mini experience at The Spa to sample the latest offer of this relaxing retreat. This Valentine treat is for only P2,200 per couple. However if you prefer outdoor garden venue with the stars as your décor, head to the beach garden for a valentine dinner buffet that will cate your palate and your hunger for romance as a band fills the air with love songs. Beat this romance to beach garden interlude is at P1,200++ per person. All diners will get the chance to enter a 3 night stay accommodation at Tunnel Bali, Indonesia. To learn more about these exciting Valentine date options and to make your reservations, please call 492-7777 or e-mail reservations.cebu@hilton.com.

St. Giles Hotel's Valentine package

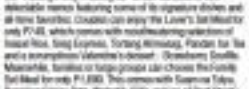
TAKE UP these special offerings at St. Giles Hotel located at Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan avenue in Makati City. Celebrate love and romance with their Valentine package at P12,888 net where you book an overnight stay at a superior room with breakfast for two between Feb. 13 to 14. You also get a free romantic dinner for two on Valentine's Day at Bayt.ed Restaurant located at level 2 with free bouquet of flowers and chocolate cake. The hotel's rooftop, Bayt.ed Restaurant and Bar Lounge also offers special packages for customers who are not staying in the hotel. A Pre-Valentine buffet dinner for only P888 net per person is offered on Feb. 13, 7 p.m. onwards with live band. For your Valentine's Day dinner date, St. Giles Hotel also offers a special dinner set for only P888 net per person on Feb. 14, 7 to 10:30 p.m. at the pool area/rooftop, level 30 of the hotel with live performers. For more information on this dinner package call 889-9999.

Cravings celebrates Valentine's Day

CRAVINGS CAKES the celebration of Valentine's Day once held by taking inspiration from the people who truly know what it is to love - mothers. With this in mind, the creative chefs at Cravings brought out their selections of all-time favorite recipes, added a little something extra, and came up with two delicious desserts: plain-two-delicious names for Mother's Day. Cravings at the Hotel Penasa: Fall in love with the divine flavors of Strawberry Cream Cake or indulge in chocolate addiction with their Divine Mousse Crunch, available at all Cravings outlets from Feb. 1 to 26. Meanwhile, from Feb. 9 to 16, choose from two romantic five course feasts, which were carefully prepared to delight the palate. For more inquiries, call 409-8888 / 474-0067 (Ayala Ave.), 636-88881 (Mall of Asia), 725-8888 / 474-0067 (Ayala Triangle), 636-88881 (Mall of Asia), 911-8888 / 911-8889 (Eastwood), 478-1888 / 771-7771 (Power Plaza, Makati), 426-8736 (Times Movista) and 818-4621 (Festival Mall, Alabang). Visit www.cravingsgroup.com.

Pearls and romance: An Astoria Valentine

ASTORIA PLAZA'S Valentine's dinner promises twice the romance by pairing the pearl because of the intricate attributes and beauty it has to offers its guests. With the magnificent skyline of Metro Manila from the 30th floor as the backdrop and surrounded in singing romantic love songs, this definitely prepa you for a very romantic ambiance indeed. The menu is a five-course dinner which their executive chef carefully selected. Couples will go home with a delicious heart-shaped cake, but the lucky winner of the raffle will go home with a double dose of romance. This is available for the first Valentine's dinner private at only P1,788 net. Price reservations required so call 687-1111, ext. 8064 and 8066. Meanwhile, you may want to further celebrate this most romantic event in the comfort of Astoria Plaza's luxurious one bedroom suite for only P15,888 net or upgrade to a 2 bedroom suite for only P16,888 net. Suite rates includes a couple breakfast for two, a bottle of wine and a welcoming message for the couple. This promo is available from Feb. 10 to 14. Call reservation ext 8000 to 8002 for reservations. Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Summit Hotels and Resorts.



C2 Classic Cuisine's Valentine treats

RECOGNIZED FOR redefining classic Filipino dishes and favorite comfort food, C2 Classic Cuisine is now releasing its exclusive love letter to their customers' tastes buds for their Valentine's month of February. C2 Classic Cuisine is offering the "Pucong Pinoy Pucong 22" which consists of two delectable menus featuring some of its signature dishes and all-time favorites. Couples can enjoy the Lover's Set Meal for only P1,45, which comes with mouthwatering selections of Inasal Rice, Sisig Express, Tortang Alimasag, Pandan Ice Tea and a scrumptious dessert - Strawberry Crepe. Meanwhile, families or large groups can choose the Family Set Meal for only P1,880. This comes with Guimmie Tokyo, Boneless Crispy Pata, Rellenyo (12% version of Beef Steak), Pandan Rice, Pandan Iced Tea (Family), capped off with a Valentine's dessert of Sans Rival Mode. For inquiries about C2, its menus, and catering services, call 636-1103 to 636-1108 (Shangri-La), 897-8110 (Robinsons), 404-4287 (Robinsons Midtown), 478-1102 (Mega Center), 758 (Megamall), 918-2186 / 640-463-0014 (Gourmet Ridge, Tagaytay), 713-4159 (Antonio Drive, Old North Road, 726-2112 (Greenhills) or e-mail c2@cravingsgroup.com. Visit www.cravingsgroup.com.

Microtel Hotels · Resorts

A one-of-a-kind Valentine's celebration at The Bellevue

MAKE THE season of love and giving truly memorable as The Bellevue Hotel, the only 5-star hotel in the Southern Metro, lets you have a fantastic February through its one-of-a-kind offerings available all month long. On Feb. 13 to 14 treat yourself and your loved one to a buffet of romance. Relax and cherish food memories with your significant other as you celebrate this special day with an unlimited table d'hôte at Café d'Ante. For only P1,280 net per person, savor the titillating flavors of love with a taste buffet selection for the lunch or dinner, featuring a delectable array of dishes.

On Feb. 13, surprise your special someone with a one-of-a-kind Dinner Valentine's date in Phoenix Court. Be first and only fine dining Chinese restaurant in Alabang. Make the romantic occasion truly unforgettable as you and your loved one share a beautiful time.

It's going to be one sweet deal that is hard to resist as The Bellevue Hotel spreads the love through its amazing Valentine's 1+1 Promo from Feb. 11 to 14. Make your special someone feel truly special as you get him or her with a quality time of love and togetherness. Relax the romance once again with a wonderful stay in the elegant deluxe room for only P10,000 net per night and get a gift certificate for an overnight stay in a standard room in the well-appointed 8-storey hotel's lunch or dinner buffet for two persons at Café d'Ante. Also would always be a chance for a relaxing, evening by stay in elegant executive suite for only P12,944 net per night and get a gift certificate for an overnight stay in a penthouse suite with a buffet breakfast for two persons in 8 Hotel.

On Feb. 14, the most romantic date of the year, fill your heart with music and laughter at The Bellevue Hotel invites everyone to its special Valentine's show featuring The Divas - sensational singer Anne Zaragoza, multi-talented performer Geneva Cruz, and brilliant comedian and impersonator Jon Santos at the elegant Grand Ballroom. Tickets are available at the hotel's box office for only P1,750 (premier seats) and P2,250 (tickets could both inclusive of one standard drink.

Show starts at 8:30 p.m. and assured seating is appreciated.

Have an amazing Valentine celebration only at The Bellevue. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Pre-Valentine 'laugh story' at Lancaster Hotel

LAUGH YOUR way to your hearts content together with a fat stomach this February. Lancaster Hotel Manila takes it light and easy with "All You Need is Laugh"...a pre-Valentine concert featuring Arpie and the Mobilcalamic Band and Love Aboard the Metro Bodies Feb. 12 at 8 p.m., with a buffet dinner for two. The stage for romance, music, and a hefty serving of humor is set at the hotel's newly revitalized Mr. Sky Lounge, which opened last Feb. 2. All these for only P1,300 net for two persons. Then laterlaughing out loud to the end time and book a room at the Lancaster Hotel with their special package for as low as P2,888 a night. This rate includes buffet breakfast for two, two glasses of wine, long stemmed rose on Feb. 14, and complimentary internet connection. Lancaster Hotel Manila is conveniently located at Shaw Blvd. in Mandaluyong City, a few hundred meters away from the busy intersection of Ortigas-Julia Vargas Ave. The modern hotel offers all the exclusive accommodations with its 110 hotel rooms, as well as the spice, executive, deluxe, and junior suites. This special package sale is inclusive of service charge and applicable government taxes. Prior reservation is required and subject to space availability. For more information and concert ticket sales, call 633-1911 to 500-1888, or log on to www.lancasterhotels.com.ph or e-mail reservations@lancasterhotels.com.ph.

Valentine's Day just got more romantic with the Pancake House Group

IF YOU are starting to make plans for Valentine's, the Pancake House Group has some up with a romantic selection of promos to make the day more special. Pancake House, Tartufo Bar, Sizzlin' Pepper Steak, Dencio's, and Le Coeur de France - all restaurants under the Pancake House Group are going to re-live the heartwarming tradition of giving out Valentine's Day cards to loved ones. Through the company's special tie-up with Hallmark, guests will be given the Hallmark greeting card that they can use to brighten up their special someone's Valentine's Day. Aside from their Valentine's Day cards, each restaurant under De Pancake House Group has a unique Valentine offering in store for diners. Paying homage to Japan's tradition of giving out chocolates during White Day (Valentine's Day's, Tartufo Bar will be giving its diners one of the following white chocolate goodies: Triple White Heart Chocolate or Pretzel Sticks, Triple White Heart Chocolate or Pretzel Sticks or Double White Heart Chocolates. Pinoy fans Dencio's has something unique in store with its Special Sets for 4. By availing of the 4-day group special, diners can switch from their scoops of Sizzlin' Pepper Steak to Dencio's Sizzlin' Pepper Steak, has a scoop of it with an extender "hearty bag". Available in different combinations, these heart-shaped, red, reusable bags that hold not into a regular-sized shopping bag is both sweet and practical. Pancake House on the other hand, has handcrafted notepads to give out which can be used to express sweet sentiments. And last but not the least, Le Coeur de France now has decadent chocolate truffles. Give your sweetie loving sweetie a box of Le Coeur de France's chocolate truffles this Valentine's Day along with its accompanying free Hallmark card. Promo is valid until supplies last. So set your Valentine's date at any of your favorite Pancake House fill-up restaurant and dine to your heart's delight with special 4-day Sweet-to-Sweet.

A private and luxurious hideaway to celebrate the Valentine's weekend

MAKE YOUR loved ones with unique and romantic activities at Mint-Tea Bay from Feb. 11 to 13.

Start your day with an ATV ride at the craggy hills of Cagsawa for your private breakfast at the hilltop while enjoying the awe-inspiring view of the Pacific Ocean. You may also opt to spoil your loved ones by taking a boat ride and jet-ski over Albay's finest destinations via private chopper before heading to your breakfast set up at the lava wall with the majestic Mt. Mayon as your backdrop.

All in working up an appetite from all the activities that comes in with the package, escape to Legaspi Beach for a private picnic lunch via high-powered yacht or speedboat where you can snorkel, swim or just lie on the beach to perfect your tan. The fun-adventure-filled day may lead to the Marina for a romantic lunch via Segway or chauffeured golf cart. Sunset cruise with cocktails may also be arranged with recreation.

Have your dinner time indulge in a private dinner at the neighborhood, on the beach, or at your romantic escape on Feb. 14 takes all guests far off to the day-Bed for a romantic, intimate experience amidst an elegant set-up at the amphitheater.

Cap off the evening with a couple's massage in the massage suite or the privacy of your bedroom for a relaxing night ahead.

For inquiries on rates and availability of activities contact (02)681-0688, e-mail reservations@mintbay.com or visit www.mintbay.com to explore their exciting virtual tours.

super

How to deal with a broken heart on Hearts' Day

By Chris Esguerra
Contributor

AS EXPECTED, every relationship status on Facebook has been addressed—blanked is more like it—by event coordinators, especially this valentine season.

There are candlelight dinners for the blissfully married. Wedding fairs for the engaged. Drinking binges for those who choose to define the relationship as "complicated." And crowd-clashing gigs for the singles.

Going through my friends list, I see that a new category has formed: The freshly-broken-up.

If you find yourself in that group, know that your rejection of anything with Cupid's horn and arrow is completely understandable. Don't give a fuzzy in flame who look at you with pity in their eyes and impolitely comment on how sure isn't the best time to come out of a relationship.

The truth is, if it's really not going to work, the perfect time to break up is sooner than later. It might not seem like it, but your breakup is a blessing. In far from a wrong arrangement is a gift and a map toward a brighter, better future.

As now, what's for you to do, you ask? Look, here's a list.

Travel

Stop stalking everyone on Facebook and get out. Get unstuck. Pack that bag and go. Take long bus rides. Get lost. Wander alone or with friends, traveling reconnects us to the fact that the world is still far bigger than everything we've known so far, and the automobiles combine us that life goes beyond our little circle.

Get beautiful

Cheesping away at home on bags of Cheetos while watching reruns of "King's Anatomy" will have its charm for a while. However, taking this time to seriously might just do you a hole of depression. Get all that crush and run, swim, stretch, dance. Do something. Just move. You'll find in the long run that exercise won't just be good for your health and your wardrobe, the adrenaline rush is bound to make you feel better, too.

Get off that couch and run, swim, stretch, dance. Do something—just move

Write a bucket list

Do you feel like the last few months or years of your life have been wasted. Get over it. Relish that you have today to make use of and, dear, probably tomorrow, too. What is it you've been wanting to do but haven't done yet? Create a checklist of goals, give yourself a deadline, and work on achieving each and every one of them. This is the time to focus on what you want to do with your life.

Buddy up

Being in a relationship sometimes makes us neglect our family and friends. Now is a good time to rekindle bonds with them. They must likely have missed your company and, given enough time, will voluntarily share a funny advice or two on why you shouldn't get back with your ex.

Exorcise the Ex

A word of warning. That activity is not for those who entertain a threat of mine suggested since to another friend whose engagement was broken off to go to all the places she and her ex considered "theirs."

Take a friend with you, if it will give you more strength. It-each place you visit, face it like the brave soul that you are and repeat to yourself, "We are not troubled anymore. The place will still be here tomorrow. It will not be swallowed by earth and that's okay. I'm moving on."

Do yourself a favor and utter those words in your head. You're trying to break your shades with the past, now threaten public security.

Don't worry about the pressures of February. If there's one thing common to most of mankind this month, it's not the cheerful celebration of Valentine's but the death of the resolutions we made at the beginning of the year.

But since this pessimistic poem of mine is of no value to any of us, let's count our blessings instead and let life go on. Much come soon enough.

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2b LIFESTYLE

2bU exclusive!

Georgina Wilson —dark

The stunner trades her creamy-white complexion for ebony—and shows young girls what is true beauty

By Carlos Consepcion
Contributor

GEORGINA Wilson is a household name—known for her perfect hair, perfect complexion, statuesque height and sweet personality. The "perfect 10" list is endless.

I know Georgina; I've observed her both from afar and up close.

I wondered how people would perceive her if we took her perfect image just a bit...

I felt what I wanted it would be if the rest of the world never from ed Georgina: the beauty—her interesting little imperfections. So I decided to do a little experiment—a photo shoot unlike any she has done.

What if we changed a part of Georgina's physical features and see how she'd react to being turned into something else?

GEORGINA 2D

Race to Hawaii with Havaianas!

Summer is the perfect time for a life of happiness, sunshine, and fun. But why wait for the year's hottest season? Take off those shoes, dip into some comfy and stylish flip-flops, and start experiencing summer like never before. With Havaianas, summer never has to end. That lively, luxurious lifestyle can stay with you always and everywhere. Summer and all the bright, happy things that go with it is more than just a season, it's a state of mind.

As part of its year-long summer celebration, Havaianas is launching the Havaianas "Always Summer: Race to Hawaii" contest. Filipino residents who are 18 years old and above, are fit to travel and engage in physical activities, are eligible to join the Havaianas "Always Summer: Race to Hawaii" contest. Every single-receipt purchase of two (2) Havaianas pairs from participating Havaianas retailers from February 4 to March 27, 2011 will merit one (1) scratch card, which contains a unique code that the participant can use to register on www.havaianassummer.com.

Flip-flops lovers nationwide get a chance to win awesome prizes and gadgets every week from Havaianas, Hawaiian Tropic and Sony: from premium gift packs, Cyber-shot cameras, VAIO laptops and Bravia TVs, to Walkman mp3 players, Handycam camcorders, PlayStations, and alpha NEX cameras.

Better yet, they can win an exclusive slot in the Havaianas "Always Summer: Race to Hawaii." One hundred (100) two-member teams from all over the country will be chosen to compete in a series of fun, summer-oriented tasks during the regional leg, which will take place on April 9 at Bonifacio Global City. Participants from outside Metro Manila will be flown in so they can participate in the exciting summer challenges.

The twenty (20) teams who complete the race with the best time will be flown to Boracay, courtesy of Sear and the Tides Hotel Boracay, to compete in the finals leg for the ultimate prize: an all-expense-paid vacation to Hawaii. These twenty (20) teams will also receive prizes from Sony, David & Goliath, Hawaiian Tropic, and Havaianas.

Experience summer fun and adventure from here to Boracay to Hawaii with Havaianas. Race begins at participating authorized Havaianas retailers.

Visit www.havaianassummer.com for details.
Per DTI-MCR No. 0554 Series of 2011

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4 Race
to win an all-expense-paid vacation for 2 to Boracay and Hawaii

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Race begins at participating Havaianas retailers
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Promo runs from February 4 – March 27, 2011. Per DTI-MCR No. 0554 Series of 2011

official contest partners:
SEAIR SONY THE TIDES

Georgina Wilson —dark

From page B1

The transformation

I doubtlessly take away her perfectly creamy tablet skin, envied by most people. I wanted to encapsulate her in a different kind of beauty—with dark chocolate skin. Would she still feel beautiful?

For just a few hours, I wanted her to be someone else.

As later spots layer of the darkest foundation was put on her skin, I watched her face in the mirror, and I wondered if there was frustration, fear, insecurity.

There was hesitation at the beginning, but as the transformation continued, I saw only eyes that gleamed every so much. Then there was a sudden slight smile on her lips—finally she was starting to enjoy this transformation.

Her commitment to finish whatever she has started (she could have thrown caste once we walked out during the shoot) is what causes Georgina to an even higher level in our eyes.

We always see the end product, the "perfect image," but how she got to the perfect image is really what should inspire everyone.

Different perspective

I did this exercise to highlight her qualities not usually seen by the public. We've come to always view them just one thing, and it is important for everyone (especially the young) to realise this.

There isn't a stereotype, or a "perfect" look you have to fit in to. We are so many things; we have so many sides, and different levels, too.

Yes, dark readers, are not alone. We all feel this way. We are all both awkward and cool, pretty and ugly, stunted and confident, or even absolutely everything above! We all have our highs and lows.

The images were created not just to shock, but also to provide Georgina and readers a way to question our own standards of beauty.

Skin color is one of the biggest issues today. We live in a country that caters to advertising revenue from glutathione and whitening skin care products.

Here, Georgina shows with us her natural chocolate skin and as You may agree or disagree, but the point is, it should make you think, and hopefully inspire you to be comfortable in your own skin.

Filipinos have a fascination with fair skin. Where do you think this is coming from?

It isn't just Filipinos who are obsessed with fair skin, the whole Asia is! I read in an article that Japan's fascination with white skin goes back 1,000 years. "There are historical records indicating so.

I think it's pretty simple: One always wants what they do not have. If you're dark, you aspire to be lighter. Many in the Philippines would work on their tan whenever they can.

I have very straight hair and I would like to have hair with more body. I think that's the root of the desire or fascination.

Do you think having fair skin has been to your advantage in the modeling industry?

I think I'd still receive the kind welcome even if I were darker. I haven't really thought about it and realized it as being advantageous or not.

Through your makeover with dark skin, did you feel uncomfortable or even out beautiful?

So, I thought it was so much fun being "unrecognized." I liked how I looked!

Do you think the samples of whitening products affects people's perception of what is beautiful? And is it fair for people to discover the skin color they want?

The Asian fascination with white skin goes quite far back historically so I feel the media responds to a need the consumers demand. I don't agree to the idea that they create a demand or need for consumers to be white.

But I think the media should lately represent a whole spectrum of women to look up to, that's why I'm glad we see happy and proud to see the "normal" Filipina do well locally and internationally, such as Venus Raj, Louise Hauguenau and Isabelle Daza—beautiful women who are comfortable in their own skin.

My Fm Gloria Diaz, 1969 Miss Universe turned actress) is movies.

I agree that the media forms a "perception" of what is beautiful, that is why fair representation is important.

Now I do not think whitening products should be banned. I think choice is important for consumers. If they want to be white, they can do so. If they want to tan, they may also do so.

More important than actually tackling the products sold is forming a solid ideology as a Filipino; instilling pride and confidence in the country and not race is more important.

What advice can you give young girls who are conscious about their skin color? What is the best way to feel beautiful?

I grew growing up, we all go through awkward stages. The best way to feel beautiful and confident is to focus on your strengths and elevate time to becoming better. I would feel most beautiful and confident when I could look back on my achievements that were not related to my physicality, like doing well in school, etc.

What is beauty to you?

Confidence, intelligence and strength!

Opposites attract

LOOK to opposite poles of the fashion spectrum for some prom inspiration, as critically acclaimed film "Black Swan" delivers not only riveting performances but also to-die-for fashion moments.

From sinister black to pristine white, frocks that bear shoes your rebellious streak, or your sweet disposition, are key this season.

Look to opposite poles of the fashion spectrum for prom frocks, inspired by 'Black Swan'

Textured vs printed

Textured

Texture, texture, texture! **Nothing exudes romance like a lace dress. Take this classic fabric to modern normal with an asymmetric silhouette.** Black lace dress by Cutie Femme, available at Promenade, shoes by Stella Luna; bracelet by Forever 21.

Printed

Add a touch of whimsy to a black and white dress with a graphic print accessories, but be sure to go easy on the accessories. You wouldn't want to be a sight for sore eyes. Printed dress, bracelet Mac Clinton, available at Rustan's; shoes by Schutz, available at Johnny Invincible; by Forever 21.

Layered vs sheer

Sheer

Take the sun from Chloé's S/S 2011 collection and pair this spin on ballerina pieces with a fitted one-shoulder top. Be sure to wear the right undergarments for this one.

White one-shoulder top and ring by Forever 21; skirt from The Ramp; pointe shoes, stylist's own.

Layered

Be the belle of the ball in a swimsuit dress topped off with a voluminous skirt that screams "Prima Queen." However, don't mix this silhouette if you're not feeling saucy.

Black dress by Kashieo; pointe shoes, stylist's own; flower clip by Forever 21.

Embellished vs bare

Embellished

Make a statement in a charmingly adorned dress that works best on a lithe physique—the added details can make one appear bigger.

Black embellished dress by Joel Escobar, available at Myth; shoes, Cole.

Bare

Take the road less traveled in a simple silhouette, but choose the right accessories to turn the plain Jane look into drop-dead chic.

White wrap dress by Kashieo; bracelet by Fritos; shoes by Schutz, available at Johnny.

In Japan, it's the girl who gives gifts on *Valentine's Day*

By Sandra Lee Uy

THE QUESTION of who gives what on Valentine's Day is usually left to the couple. The more traditional ones opt for the classic confession and heart shaped chocolate for a humble but earnest. The more romantic (not to mention madly in love) go all out with fancy trips or extravagant surprises.

But in Japan, girls don't get spare others their modern up on the 14th of February without breakfast in bed, or a room decked with pink and white flowers. In fact, they probably skipped breakfast to beat the long holiday lines at sweet shops.

They need to be early, if they want to get their special someone something good, preferably sweet and chocolatey.

Yes, you read right. Valentine's Day in Japan is a solely girl's responsibility. Unless they have a different mode set-up, boys probably don't even realize the date—until, of course, the moment they open their lockers to find delectable treats inside.

Before you damsels are overcome by power or this rather brazen display of affection, take a deep breath and hold on for a minute—make that a month.

Because on March 14, otherwise called "White Day," it's the guys' turn to lavish you with attention.

CHOCOLATE remains an all-time favorite, but cakes, jewelry, clothes and food are also popular. The number of gifts one receives is often a gauge of one recipient's popularity.

Save love

Stemming from the Japanese tradition of reciprocity, not to mention potential for increased profit, "White Day" was an 80s experience that began when the Japanese National Confectionery Industry Association advertised a reply day for men to show appreciation for those who gave them gifts.

An article in Japan Times says the premise "hoped to evoke images of pure, sweet love," so white, as a symbol of purity was the obvious choice for the name.

However, a Japanese guidebook also confirm the evil, or to a similar object—more a marshmallow. Low company originated in the '60s. That one failed—white marshmallows weren't very big in 1960's Japan.

But whatever to name came from, like any other tradition, White Day has grown out to monstrous origins. As with Valentine's Day, this simple exchange has become a gateway date for romance.

"Some people confess that when they give or receive gifts on this day, that might be the start of a relationship," says Japan native Naohiro Horikawa.

"Three days, some girls also give sweets to their female friends on Valentine's. So on White Day, girls also give something in return," says Akane Ito. And while chocolate remains an all-time favorite, the spot, some boys give praise items like clothes or jewelry.

The tradition has also stretched all the way to Korea, along with that country's own love-related occasions like "Black Day", for mourning singles, and "Pepero Day," for outwardly, horny-lovey young couples.

White Valentine

There's no male thing as "having enough chocolate." Even in White Day stick-to-conventioners hoarding in the name with cute gooddies, it's simply not enough to figure out what would amaze the attention of love-stricken males.

Back in junior high, Sachiko had to frantically search for treats at the last minute. "All the chocolate and sweets were sold out at the shops around my house," he says. Hardcore blow getting his girlfriend cakes and flowers on White Day.

The whole "promise" usually starts in grade school, says Akane. (Isn't he gross enough, but "at that time, the boys' sweetness would be the same boy thing them."

It's only later, during the girly teen years, when that occasion is greeted with enthusiasm. Like how the girl with the most token stake grand spoils, the amount of candy received is a measure of popularity.

"It's something you should be proud of," says Kumiko Ito-oto Ito, that after the novelty wears off, a deeper meaning upon us.

"I like concept from stores don't compare much against a guy's hard work and effort. "I need to get into study, back when I was 15, and I was really excited when buying chocolate for my special someone," says Kumiko. "But since I got older, I wanted to prepare something more than chocolate."

One White Day Akane was touched when her boyfriend prepared her favorite Japanese dish of steamed fish—one that was particularly difficult to make, she says.

No matter the gift, says Akane, the Valentine's White Day trade confirms the love in a relationship. "A couple are somehow make sure they love reaffirmed."

Sayaon doesn't even mind that behind the romance, White Day is inherently a giant marketing scheme.

"We just enjoy it as a way of expressing our feelings toward our sweethearts—or an excuse to hang with friends."

Celebrate your Valentine's Day Weekend at SM Mall of Asia!

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SMILE YOUR WAY TO GOOD HEALTH

It is said that the healthier your teeth are, the happier you look. That's because behind every beautiful smile is a healthy set of teeth – think Mona Lisa and Julia Roberts.

Your teeth are important in many ways. Taking care of your teeth helps prevent plaque, which is a clear form of bacteria that sticks to your teeth. Plaque also causes gingivitis, which makes your gums red, swollen, and sore.

If you take care of them, they'll help you take care of you. Strong, healthy teeth help you chew the right foods. They also help you speak clearly, and yes, they help you look your best. Here are some tips on how to work your way to that million-dollar smile from Watsons.

THE BRUSH BRIGADE

Brush your teeth at least twice a day – when you wake up since plaque and bacteria accumulates as you sleep overnight, and if you can after every meal. Avoid, however, brushing your teeth at least 30 minutes after eating acidic food and drinks since this is harmful to the tooth enamel. When you brush, you don't need a lot of toothpaste, just squeeze out a bit the size of a pea. Also be sure your toothbrush has soft bristles, holding it at a slight angle against your teeth, and brush with gentle back and forth motions. Take your time while brushing, spending at least 2 or 3 minutes as you brush all your teeth and your tongue. It's best to change your toothbrush every three months – or as soon as the bristles become frayed.

FLOSS AND WASH

Flossing is necessary as the bristles of your toothbrush are limited and there are places they can't reach. We need to floss to remove food particles and plaque from that area. Using mouthwash is also good for your dental health. Rinsing before brushing your teeth can make this more effective as it loosens food particles and plaque build up. Go for an alcohol free brand to avoid dryness in the mouth.

The Watsons Mouthwash range is alcohol free, and has fluoride and mint variants that help prevent cavities, kills bad breath-causing germs, and leaves mouth and gums clean and refreshed.

THE WAY TO FRESH BREATH

It's not just brushing and flossing that keeps your teeth healthy – you also need to be careful about what you eat and drink. Remember, the plaque in your teeth is just waiting for sugar to arrive, and this could lead to bad breath. Eat lots of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and other natural snacks and drink water instead of soda to improve your dental health – and keep your breath fresh. If all else fails, see your dentist. You might have cavities or gum disease, which also causes bad breath.

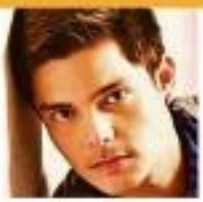
Lip Balms We Love

Now that you've got your pearly whites gleaming, you can complete your way to a more confident smile with soft, luscious lips. Our lips are naturally vulnerable because of their thin skin. Compounded with external factors like dry air, cold temperatures, and the wind factor, these can lose moisture and become chapped and dry. Watsons recommends lip glosses and balms in the most wonderful colors and flavors to heal, repair, and moisturize lips!

THESE ARE AVAILABLE AT WATSONS STORES NATIONWIDE AND AT THE BEAUTY SECTION OF SM DEPARTMENT STORES.

Editor Nestor U. Torre ● Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY Special



DANTES. Never underestimate the power of love.

VALENTINE FORUM

Stars wax romantic about loving, losing and moving on

By Rito P. Asilo

LUCSIN. Work is the best antidote for a broken heart.

BY SOME over-used, "When you're in love, you can't fail unless, because reality is better than your dreams." So your favorite celebrities feel this lovely celebration when they're in love? When we asked some stars what they have learned about love, many of them gave this advice: Proceed with caution!

Dingdong Dantes is an optimistic soul—and his thoughts reflect this: "One thing I've learned is that love's power can never be underestimated. It never really ends. It only transform and transforms, because it grows and expands as you as you get older, until a more deserving and mirrors with it. And, you'll know that the romantic interlock has begun once you nod, 'o' roll with each other!"

How do angels mend a broken heart? Angel Locsin speaks from experience: "The best way to mend a broken heart is to keep yourself busy. Work is the best antidote! And, make sure you learn from the experience before you allow yourself to fall in love again!"

Pure beauty

Angel Aquino embraces love and its many glorious: "I've learned that love comes in different forms and varying intensities—and even something as dark as anger is rooted in love. In the end, you'll see its pure and unconditional beauty—and it'll be easier to accept, understand and move on if it has hurt you!"

Rhian Ramos takes a more reckless stand: "Don't put too much meaning in what you see or read on Facebook. Better yet, deactivate your account altogether. Bright it!"

Lani Pee, Mikels castar in "My Absolute Girls," says there are important things to remember when you fall in love. "Trust your instinct, but know your worth. Never lose your self respect!"

"Ikol naman ako ang mga tanong tungkol sa 'akalam, eh sana akong ano ngayon?" the irrepressible Bernadia Bawat sabi sa. Her thought about romance comes summer: "Love yourself first before you love others. Ang pagmamahal, dapat hindi lang sa kinakabitan ibinibigay...sarabin mo ang sarili mo. —Kim, dapat matutong magmahal kinagbi.

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WISE "Love conquers everything —except poverty and cockroaches!"

Love's like that

By Nestor U. Torre

EVERYBODY HAS his own take on love and what it's all about, but that most popular and perennially pleasurable of all emotions continues to remain a mystery. Thus, the 064 million question is not forward. If we all know everything about it, why are some of us such problematic, clueless and downright lousy lovers?

On this weekend of Love Overload and Mystifying, let's turn to some well-known wits and/or wise guys and gals for greater illumination. —Help!

Mae West: Love conquers everything—except poverty and toothaches!

Lenda Ramy: Love is an exploding cigar that we willingly smoke!

John Barrymore: Love is the delightful interval between meeting a beautiful girl and discovering that she has the brain of a haddock.

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FANS' DAY

Edu Manzano is sorely missed

By Andy Bais

WHAT'S KEEPING the TV networks from getting the services of Edu Manzano as TV host? Zenaida Ligunas, a retired teacher, wants to know: "It's been a while since Edu's short-lived 'Kain Tabo, Lahat Puwede' on GMA 7 went off the air, and the show's demise shouldn't be blamed on him—it was simply the wrong show for Edu!

"A well-thought-out game show that suits his personality and never insults his capability as a host would be fine. Be, headline a talk show would be better. Many of his followers, including this lola, miss Edu's spontaneity and funny boxing style. He's one of the few hosts who don't steal the limelight from their guests."

Other observations:

Catherine Manguerra, financial officer: "Last Sunday, I was able to watch Sharon Cuneta's 'Star Power.' Like the judges, I was in awe of the finalists' performances—they looked and sounded like pros!

"Singing contests on TV are different from how their cast is be. Aside from big cash prizes, plus house and lot, contestants enjoy more support from the network via TV guestings on the network's shows, which boosts their self-confidence and serve as their training ground. I just hope that those young contestants don't forget their studies."

Migue Guevara, musician: "It seems that there's no letup on the influence of any thing foreign as far as our musical talents are concerned. Singers merely adapt to the singing styles of whomever is popular on the international music scene.

"I remember Mariah Carey at the height of her popularity. Local artists attempted to sound like her, imitated the way she dressed and produced copycat music videos. When the Spice Girls and Pussycat Dolls became hits, we came up with our own girl bands! These days, the more 'E-Pop' or 'Eko Boomin' you sound or move, the better.

HAVE LAUGH: Spontaneous and witty

Identity

"There was a time when Original Pilipino Music (OPM) had its own name: 'Manila Sound.' There were the days when the local music scene was at its finest, when its artists created our own tunes and weaved a wide range of genres: Folk, pop, disco, rock, country and sweet/by ballad, even political, and even 'pang-pakilaso.'

"Even foreign artists like The Letterman had respect for our music. Ubey even included some Filipino songs in their repertoire. Nowadays, it's the other way around."

E-mail: bitsandpix@yahoo.com

Setting the Filipino free from colonial and cultural bondage

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR YEARS NOW we have been urging our dear readers to acknowledge, confront and conquer our nation's collective Colonial Mentality, which to our view has limited our emergence and growth as a people.

At its core, colonial mentality is our "doubting" and unduly endorsing "gift" from "real, al' source" of colonizers, who have brainwashed us into thinking that "foreign" is invariably "better" than "local."

Many Filipinos continue to unfortunately think, feel and act this way, but heavenly believe that this is not the large, seminal problem it is. Thus, the effects of colonial mentality continue to haunt "with evasions," and serve all the poorer and weaker for it.

Potent

At no other time of the year is this "doubtless" colonial bondage more evident and potent than during Valentine's month, when inevitable dozens of foreign entertainers urge Filipino singers and musicians out of the spotlight that by rights should be their home turf—and thousands of local music fans pay hundreds and even thousands of pesos for the operative "pleasure" of hearing and seeing these "world-class" musical idols perform live and "in the flesh."

The onerous situation has gotten so bad that once artists are hitting—and are crying out for more equitable treatment from their countrymen, like, many music fans dismiss their plaintive pleas as pro-vida-ness-grasping.

In the digital marketplace that we all inhabit, they say, you have to compete in order to survive, and if "homebrew/grade" music less like the imports' music is lesser than potato, laugh.

The "global" argument may be wordy, but it's sadly wrong-headed. It blatantly perpetuates that our five centuries of colonialization and oppression never happened, so we're inherently at par in terms of cultural integrity with other countries.

Alas, this is tragically not true, and our "buried secret" of collaterals have made sure of that, blinding us to the potential richness and rightness of our own musical idols to vitally energize unique wellsprings and psychic power as a people.

Unique richness

If all we love to do is sing other cultures' music and gi-go-go over "international" and "global" faves, how can our nation's beloved from that unique richness of our rights-to-be? Or, until, and we really are the poorer for it.

Unfortunately, many of us still don't see how our colonized have nudged our values, standards and preferences, and "gifted" us with the "damaged culture" that often leaves our classroom have persisted to be our major psychological and psychic disability as a nation.

Seeing the light

If this piece has helped make you see the light in this regard, what can you do to rehabilitate and reorient your own thoughts, feelings and actions?

First, our collective masses should individually up-and our colonizers' insidious claim that "local" is poorer than "imported." We should all declare: Hi, (pinoy/ini—and/and!

And, even if to some in distress, we don't care, we should persevere and give "local" the care and feeding it has missed all these years. It took centuries to evidence us in what we are now, so don't expect overnight miracles. Give the rehabilitation and evolution process the years it needs to make up for the deadly time and loss of the years...and, trust even.

Of course, our "transcolonization" is just a small piece of our general cultural emancipation to restore countries' standards and preferences, but it can be a good, seminal start.

Instead of hovering foreign stars, let's consciously and

SEE STARS ON

Love's like that

From page W1

Douglas Jerrold: Love is like the measles—all the worse when it comes late in life.

W. Somerset Maugham: Love is the deep well-played on as to enhance consciousness of the species.

Easy to begin

H.L. Mencken: Love is like war—easy to begin, but very hard to stop.

Henry Mitchell: To fall in love, you have to be in the state of mind for it to take, like a disease.

S.J. Perelman: Love is not the dying moan of a distant violin—it is the triumphant twang of a beckoning.

Judith Viorst: Love is not more to be in than an automobile accident, a right gamble, a higher tax bracket, or a holding pattern over an overpopulated metropolis.

Mae Piggy: Only time can heal your broken heart...just as only time can heal his broken arms and legs!

Oscar Wilde: There is always something ridiculous about the people whom one has ceased to love.

Bob Hope: My father told me all about the birds and the bees. What a liar—I never really such a woodpecker until I was 29!

Jacques Barkeyte: We don't love quickly, we love a process—sometimes, by reason of his defects, as well as his virtues.

Helen Hinson: Love isn't anything but sex misspelled.

Walt Disney: I love Mickey Mouse more than any woman. I've ever known.

W.H. Auden: Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.

William Shakespeare: Love sought is good, but given unsought is better.

Francois La Rochefoucauld: The pleasure of love is in loving. We are happier as the passion we feel than to that which we arouse.

Alphonse de Lamartine: To love for the sake of being loved is human, but to love for the sake of loving is angelic!

Mae West: I never loved another person the way I loved myself.

Lily Tomlin: If love is the answer, what is the question?

Stars wax

From page W1

Has Dong always have this story about love? He replies, "Naghuge sa ang amoron ko ang dog...Isa a lalo pated nora, ilaa lamat ko akon kang tatoong mahal ako a ginagawa lang ako. Ako po naman, dano sa ang dog' Kaya, kapag nasugatang lang ang pagmamahal ko sa mga ayoko na lang limutan ito."

But, the hopeless romantic in Dong comes out when we ask him if she's already given up on love, like quips, "I'll never stop believing in it, whether in this lifetime or the next, because infinite love is the only truth—everything else is an illusion!"

Patience

Eileen Hensall was one of the castaways we rooted for on 'Survivor: Celebrity Edition,' because she always made sense. What has she learned from the ordeals of falling in love? Answers: "I've learned to take things slow and to be patient. My advice: Don't jump into things too fast, see your needs/ expectations in the real, and don't believe everything the guy says!"

Even "Eumenia's" promising male contestants have something to share about falling in love: Bonus Mbwa says there's no fixed formula for love: "It's never the same every time you enter into a new relationship. Once you think you've figured it out, you'll realize how wrong you are!"

"Learn some for yourself," advises Bonus Badoza "—and you're one day's worth the sacrifice!"

And, you can say what you want about love and romance, but for hop-on-medicine, Eugene Domingo, this much is true: "In love, nothing is impossible!"

Meet and Greet
the stars of
myValentinegirls
FEBRUARY 12
Saturday • 4:00 pm
GLORIETTA 4
CINEMA LOBBY
FEBRUARY 13
Saturday • 4:00 pm
TRINOMA
CINEMA LOBBY

A close...

From page W1

many guys forever-ed!

(Yeah, it a guy borrowed from us, we'd be disturbed, too!)

Weather forecast

(Hear What's the weather forecast for tomorrow?

Weather reporter: For tomorrow, there is no storm, but there will be light-intended rains.

(Hmm.....sweet!)

* * *

(Hear What are the attractions of your region?

Guest: For visitors who love nature, we're one of the few places left in the country that is still rich in wildlife.

(After seeing mosquito or hyperpyrexia, patient die?)

* * *

(Hear What changes do you promise in your office?

Guest: Everything will be done to serve our people better. (that's what I can say now)

(Ok, I see no merit)

* * *

(Host: How is your investigation of the bombing incident coming along?

Guest: Don't worry, we're going full-blast.

(....his gun is loaded, we hope!)

Search for 'Total OPM Performer'

FILIPINO SINGING talents waiting to be discovered will have the chance to break into the Philippine music industry through "OPM@SM.COM," a Nationwide Search for The Total OPM Performer." The talent search is a tie-up between the Philippine Entertainment and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the Organization of Philippine Many.search (OPM).

Through the talent search, deserving Filipino singers will have the rare opportunity of being mentored by the country's top musicians.

Since September last year, Pagcor has started to strengthen its commitment to showcase our own culture by adopting the Filipino theme in its entertainment offerings and major events.

ALCASID. Singers' guild's president.

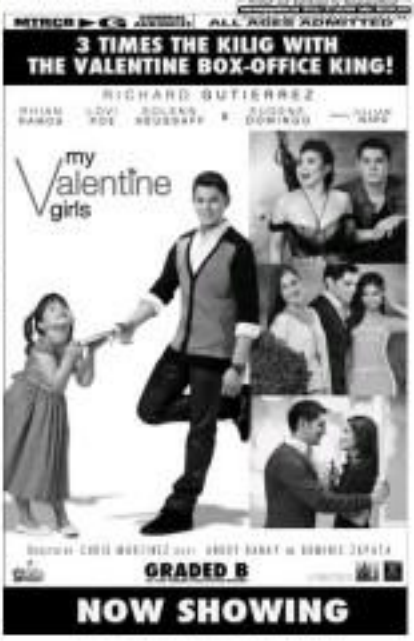
Mentors

The "OPM@SM.COM" talent search will be tapping the country's top singers, creative and technical experts, master classmen and artist managers as mentors of the finalists.

Apart from the chance to learn from the country's renowned OPM artists, the grand prize winner will receive as much as P500,000 in cash, a recording contract with a major recording company, and another contract to perform at Pagcor's Casino Filipino branches. The second place winner will take home a cash prize of P300,000, while the third place winner will be awarded P100,000.

Deadline of submission of application is on March 18, 2011. Auditions officially start on March 30 in Casino Filipino Angeles. Other satellite venues are the Casino Filipino branches in Pavilion, Tagaytay, Bacolod, Cebu and Davao.

For more details, visit www.pcg.gov.ph or www.opm.org.ph, or call (856) or 561-3670.



MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: SANGGOL (3D)
2: SANCTUM (3D)
3: THE MECHANIC
4: THE RITE
5: BUGONG
6: MY VALENTINE GIRLS
7: 127 HOURS

GREENHILLS 1

1: 127 HOURS
2: MY VALENTINE GIRLS

GREENHILLS 2

1: 127 HOURS
2: SANGGOL (3D)
3: LOVE & OTHER DRUGS
4: SANCTUM (3D)
5: THE MECHANIC

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: MY VALENTINE GIRLS
2: SANGGOL (3D)
3: SANCTUM (3D)
4: 127 HOURS
5: THE MECHANIC

ATRIA + CINEBEL CEBU

1: 127 HOURS
2: THE MECHANIC
3: SANCTUM (3D)
4: BUGONG

MARQUEE

1: THE MECHANIC
2: SANCTUM (3D)
3: 127 HOURS
4: MY VALENTINE GIRLS

MARKET! MARKET!

1: SANGGOL (3D)
2: 127 HOURS
3: THE MECHANIC
4: SANCTUM (3D)
5: BUGONG
6: MY VALENTINE GIRLS
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: BUGONG
2: THE MECHANIC
3: SANCTUM (3D)
4: SANGGOL (3D)
5: THE RITE
6: 127 HOURS
7: MY VALENTINE GIRLS

Reserve your tickets by texting SureSeats to 2910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

MOVIE SPECIAL

Capture Special Moments...
Photo keepsake of your movie date this valentine.
February 10, 11 & 14, 2011

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Valentine Scrapbooking Workshop with Ms. Karen B. Chan's Personal Page
Valentine Poster Workshop with Ms. Kristine B. Chan's Personal Page

GREENHILLS
LIVE: "She Sings, The Music Is Forever (Direct Hires)"
Valentine Pre-concert at 1 Mid-Atrium
February 10, Courtesy Call Courtesy Walk, 8:30pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
LIVE: "She Sings, The Music Is Forever (Direct Hires)"
Valentine Pre-concert at 1 Mid-Atrium
February 10, Courtesy Call Courtesy Walk, 8:30pm

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
Valentine Interactive Photo Booth with Fabulous and other artists' February 13, Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Valentine Pre-concert at 1 Mid-Atrium
February 12 to 14, Mid-Atrium & Activity Center, 4 pm

MARKET! MARKET!
LIVE: "She Sings, The Music Is Forever (Direct Hires)"
Valentine Pre-concert at 1 Mid-Atrium
February 10, Courtesy Call Courtesy Walk, 8:30pm

TRINOMA
Valentine Interactive Photo Booth with Fabulous and other artists' February 13, Activity Center

MARQUEE
Scrapbooking Class & Other Activities
February 13-14

ONTARIO
Valentine Pre-concert at 1 Mid-Atrium
February 12 to 14, Mid-Atrium & Activity Center, 4 pm

MALL SPECIAL

Enjoy love's many surprises on Valentine's February 13, 2011

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2948

Kevin Spacey mourns director's passing

LOS ANGELES—Kevin Spacey is still mourning the passing of George Hickenlooper, the director of his latest film, "Casino Jack," and "Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse," a documentary chronicling the challenges Francis Ford Coppola faced while making his 1979 war epic "Apocalypse Now."

Hickenlooper died on March 6 in Santa Monica. He believed in "Casino Jack" and was very proud of it.

I'm only comforted by the fact that he died knowing that people were championing the film. I think the thing that would make him happiest would be that people see it.

Did you and George get to talk about "Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse"?

We talked about it, because I think it's one of the most definitive...and maybe the greatest documentary—about filmmaking. It's a remarkable document of the journey that Coppola and all the actors in that movie went on.

How did you arrive at your portrayal of Jack Abramoff?

The experience of trying to dig down and how to play him started with my conversations with George.

I knew about Abramoff because I'm a bit of a political junkie. Although I was in London, I paid attention to the news when it blew up. I made a decision once I found out that I was going to travel him to prison that I wasn't going to read or research a lot of commentary and articles that had been written about him—read other than him.

George and I ultimately had the chance to go to the Cumberland, Maryland prison, and I spent about six-and-a-half hours with Abramoff.

First meeting

In our first meeting, he was very helpful and outspoken. He was a surprisingly funny charming guy who did impressions!

After I left the prison, I started to do research. I researched an awful lot of the political machinery. As you may recall remember, it was a huge story, so...you're trying to reconcile the person you met with what everybody said about him.

Then, you try to smooth the facts out, and you realize things poised, and, most importantly, what they did with the money because he was financed as the most greedy, ambitious and

SPACEY. He's out in force for the money.

horrible person.

Hi, there's no evidence at all. He wasn't even paying his mortgage, as I said, "Well, what was he doing with the money?" There, you research that he was giving it away. Now I'm not saying that the way he made money was right, and he has certainly paid the price for contributing the various, but I couldn't find any evidence that he was living high on the hog.

This, what you try to do is say "All right, he was a guy caught up in a culture, where other people are doing these things and didn't get caught or indicted for doing them—so nobody was paying attention to it? Was he perhaps emboldened by greed, lust by a sense of what influence and power can do in the political picture?

While what damages people's reputations or careers is the perceived dishonesty or bureaucratic lies, and in getting him in such a way that an audience would know that experience that I love to have when I watch something...you keep drifting your allegiances for and sympathies that kind of respect, your to empathize, because you participate in watching a movie, rather than having everything told to you in black and white.

Power

What's your own relation to power?

I like being in a position to get things done. I've never been particularly interested in power for its own sake. The theaters I've made in my life underscore that. More than anything, I've moved to London to do the vast work that we do in education and community work, working with kids and using theaters as an educational tool. Clearly, I'm not in it for the money.

For me, it all comes back to Jack Lemmon. When I met Jack when I was 12 years old, he was instantly kind to me in a workshop. I worked with him many years later, playing his son in "Long Day's Journey Into Night," and to this day, we did together the funniest an extraordinary father figure to me!

Jack's philosophy was, if you've done well in the business, it's your obligation to spend a good portion of your time sending the other back down.

You signed on for another five years at the Old Vic. You must be enjoying your time there.

I made a 10-year commitment and, you know, I'm getting to end up doing 11 years. A director needs new blood after a decade, so it will be the right time. It will allow me five years to raise money for the production fund, as the new artistic director doesn't have to spend his or her time as I did raising funds!

E-mail remarks: DMSfeedback@inquirer.com

WITHERSPOON. Figures in a love triangle in "How Do You Know?"

FIRTH AND RUSH. Save in award-winning portrayals as royal "patient" and "doctor."

NEESON. Has his identity stolen in "Unknown."

Oscar front-runner leads exciting film slate

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW FILMS opening soon set to roll screens are geared by "The King's Speech." The Colin Firth-starrer that has gotten the most nominations (11) in the ongoing 2011 Oscars race.

The film dramatizes the uniquely disarming challenge faced by England's King George II as he manfully tries to conquer his terrible stuttering problem, which has tormented him and limited his prospects as monarch.

Motherhood becomes a powerful subject for older brother abdicates to marry an American divorcee, Wallis Simpson, as the new king must stop stuttering, if he wants to become an inspirational leader of his people.

Most cheerful of all is the fact that World War II has just exploded, so the new monarch needs to become a good communicator to lead England to victory.—King, nor what would have happened if he continued to stutter as former brother left on London?

Stuttering research

Happily, the unnerving research placed himself in the competent hands of an expert (played by Geoffrey Rush), a failed actor from Australia who later found his true calling as a "doctor" specializing in helping stammers get over their disturbing and embarrassing problems.

Firth and Rush turn in potentially award-winning portrayals as they depict the "doctor" and his royal "patient."

At first, a drama about a stammer would seem difficult or even impossible to dramatize in an exciting and absorbing manner. But, the film's principal actors are so good that they make the "impossible" happen.

Other movies for film buffs to consider: In "Unknown," Liam Neeson plays a doctor who smashes after a car accident in Berlin in the aftermath that his wife suddenly doesn't recognize him, and that another man has assumed his identity. Harried by mysterious assassins, he finds himself alone—and on the run.

The new comedy "How Do You Know?" casts Reese Witherspoon as an athlete who can't focus her mind and begins a fling with a major league baseball pitcher, a self-centered ladies' man...and a narcissist with a code of honor.

Small boy

In the animated feature, "Mars Needs Moms," a small boy finds out just how much he needs his mother when she's nabbed by Martians who plan to steal her "mom-ness" for their own young.

To state it, the boy goes on a wild adventure that involves stirring away on a spaceship, navigating his way to an alien, multilevel planet and taking on the alien nation and its leader!

NEESON. Has his identity stolen in "Unknown."

'Asia's Monarchies' on History

SUNDAYS AT 10 p.m., the History channel telecasts the four-part series, "Asia's Monarchies."

On Feb. 13, the focus is on the former absolute monarchy of Bhutan.

Also airing this month, at 9 p.m. on Feb. 17, is the new TV special, "The President's Book of Secrets," a thrilling expose on what happens after the president of the United States is sworn in.

Love songs at the Shang

At 7 p.m. on Feb. 12 at the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza, the Manila Symphony Orchestra performs the hottest and most romantic love songs of Valentine's Day for couples.

On Feb. 13 at 4 p.m., the same location the Tito Sotto-Vic Sotto-Coney Reyes Film Festival Awards will be held. Some of the biggest stars in the Philippine movie industry will be there to receive awards for their performances in the 2010 Metro Manila Film Festival.

'Black Swan' sneak previews

Darren Aronofsky's "Black Swan," starring Natalie Portman as a psychologically disturbed ballet star, will have sneak previews on Feb. 14 and 15. Its regular run is on Feb. 23.

A kiss lovin' from Nickelodeon

Season Two of "Victorious" unveils every Thursday and Friday at 5 p.m. From Feb. 14 to 17 at 6:30 p.m., "Cat's Up" special episode, "Kiss Me Here," shows what happens when a birthday gift turns Cat's (Ariana Grande) cool bedroom into a "hot" one!

Cozy cruising

From Feb. 11 to 14, Sea Cruises offers a romantic cruise for you and your special someone to Batanes Corregidor. Or, go on a shorter Subic/Ilo Ilo cruise and celebrate Valentine's Day! Inquire now for details of both options, call 527-5555 or visit www.seacruiseshipping-phils.com.

Movies on 23rd Avenue

At 8 p.m. every Monday, "The Screening Room" unveils exceptional films: On Feb 14, "City of Angels" with Meg Ryan and Nicolas Cage. Feb 21, "Shutterstock" with Kevin Knight Joy and James Mathony. Feb. 28, "Lake Mungo," with Sandra Bullock and Bruna Barnes.

On Universal Channel: In "Unmasked" 10:30 p.m., Thursdays, a young American is romanced in India...and

NEESON. Has his identity stolen in "Unknown."

Montage

Twenty (24) Quatrocult

The Twenty (24) Quatrocult by Robert Guerrilla Filmmaking, Members of De La Salle College of St. Benilde is a competition where four promising students of student filmmakers shoot and edit a 20-minute film project in a 24-hour time period. It starts on Feb. 18. For details, e-mail jaggerbuddy@dlsbenilde.ph.

'Mirror'

Juliet Bawalan and Ahmet Paz team up on AMBP Studio Theater and AMBP Media's eclectic season three has announced program, "Mirror," every afternoon at 3 p.m. starting Feb. 14.

'Rainbow'

New team mic Lennie delos Reyes plays the title role in Glib 75 for afternoon series, "Rainbow," playing a girl cursed with a computer's call.

'Rent'

Starting Feb. 12, 9 Works Theatrical swaggers the rock musical, "Rent," at the Resorts Theatre, SCBC Plaza, Makati, starring Gian Magdangal and Gian Sotto. Tickets' Carmona shooting, Call 891-9999 or visit www.resortsworldmanila.com.

ABC News Nightline' feature

The Center for Pop Music Philippines was recently the brief on the popular "ABC News Nightline's" show on Philippine boy-band singers, who it said have "conquered the market on foreign singing" globally in several reviews may look up the video on YouTube.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 9 p.m., "An Education" premieres at 7:30 p.m., "Hachiko." Feb. 14 at 7 a.m., "Bob Ross" Feb. 15 at 9 p.m., "My Zoo Bird." Feb. 16 at 1 p.m., "Inglourious Basterds." Feb. 17 at 11:30 p.m., "Speakeasy." Feb. 18 at 7:05 p.m., "Hi-Seas," the final.

'Bad' on video

Bruce Willis' latest blockbuster, "Red," is now on Spanish Edition DVD and Blu-Ray as released by G Entertainment Digital Entertainment.

The hot-to-trot actress also stars Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich and Helen Mirren. Visit www.gentertainment.com.ph.

NEESON. Has his identity stolen in "Unknown."

Stories for children put premium on values

WHOOPI. Voices God's reading advocacy.

LAST SUNDAY as the CCP's Pasay 2011, I took my children to listen to Melody Benosa read Rachelle Cruz-Lim's "Lost a tire," about a student's child who shares her father's stories through the pictures and voice tapes he sends home.

Later, when she's all grown up, her dad comes home after suffering from a stroke. She wonders whether there's anything left of her dad for her to discover and enjoy because her image of her father is incomplete.

Upon his return, however, relatives and friends thank him for his generosity, and the young woman realizes she hasn't really lost him—because he left his

NEESON. Has his identity stolen in "Unknown."

Shakespeare's "Othello," with NUT as the Moor, Benosa as as Desdemona, and Elfrida as the Iago—times read.

Pomp and circumstance

We watched well with Ms Benosa. When the reading was staged, the production was met with pomp and circumstance. All officials were in attendance, while Nutcracker Ballet's magnificent costumes pleased on her dress.

Watts after the final curtain, I bumped into Mrs. Benosa. She was thrilled and was accompanied by a maid. When I introduced myself, she lit up, embraced me and lovingly said, "Hija, how are you?" Then she introduced me to one of her favorite students.

Until remember Lola Pimentel and "Othello" with Rosalinda Lolo, Dr. Bacon and Alfredo Lim since passed away—but NUT, Dominicano and I have memories of theater where glass has deepened through the years.

Fascinating drama behind oral reading of 'Othello'

By Butch Cervantes

IT WAS in the early '80s when UP established the Speech and Drama department, which was previously just a division in Social Sciences. Its head was Consuelo Valdez-Gonzalez, a formidable woman many people held in awe.

For studies class requirements, I wrote about a feisty woman boss, with "Whatever Lola Wants, Lola Gets" as the background music.

My classmates included Ricardo Cinco aka Kidlat Tahimik, Eliana "Bambi" Collas, Maureen Dayrit-Ilarde and Orlando Ilarde, Glen Silayan, and their girlfriend/wife/soon-to-be-wife Antonio Lacsina. They gave me a B for my book.

Instructions

When I booked around, I replied Mrs. Gonzalez. I asked me nonetheless, Orlando Ilarde, to increase the volume of the music. He said he passed in his paper while following my instructions. I thought the incident was a 'joke' ...Those were my "crazy" years.

Professor Bonnevie Jar Lola, as she was fondly called) established the department with Lolly Tiaoe, Dr. Alejandro Casareño, Maly Santiago, Jacinto Arnaldo, Angelito Cuba, Sonny Tiera Jr. and Rosemarie Barrera.

Lola was a proud alumna of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where Bonnie and Lolly also took up graduate studies. She was instrumental in getting Mrs. Barrera to head the department's final integration department, to teach in her new department, and he immediately proved the controversial dramatic possibilities of "oral interpretation."

I was flattered when Dr. Bacon sent me an hugo in William Shakespeare's "Othello," with NUT as the Moor, Benosa as as Desdemona, and Elfrida as the Iago—times read.

Exciting talents ...

From page E4

ngalisan manages to excite viewers with her singing and dancing prowess—and the also passes muster in the acting department.

Clearly, other film musicals are in the "down" big screen area, comedy fiction, and her performances in "Burlesque" could end up as the stellar debut of the year.

Justin Bieber-Agudelon, talent evidently new actress seems on course to become an exciting musical leader of his people.

FORTMAN. Portrays a psychologically disturbed ballet star.

COSGROVE. Star of Nick channel's popular teenage series.

AGUILERA. #standee-grabber.

Exciting talents make their bid for stardom

By Hector U. Torre

THE MEN taking their bid for movie stardom this season are paced by the young Hi-Art. actress, Hailee Steinfeld, who does so well in "True Grit" that she's been nominated for an Oscar (Best Supporting Actress).

For her part, Christina Aguilera is no newbie to these bis, being a semi-find singing star in her own right. But, her first big performance in the movies, as the sexy singing and swinging star of "Burlesque," is a definite attention-grabber.

Despite the presence of the formidable and irrefutable Cher,

CONTINUED >>

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 TANGLED (3D) PG 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

2 127 HOURS PG-13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40

3 THE RITE PG-13 1:40, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

4 BURLESQUE PG-13 1:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:50

SANCTUM PG-13 1:00, 4:20, 9:40, 8:10

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 MY VALENTINE GIRLS PG-13 3:30, 6:30, 7:30, 10:30

2 THE RITE PG-13 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30

3 THE MECHANIC R-18 12:30, 3:10, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30

4 127 HOURS R-18 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40

5 SANCTUM PG-13 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:00, 10:30

6 TANGLED PG 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10

7 THE WARRIOR'S WAY PG-13 2:50, 5:10, 8:10, 10:40

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 TANGLED 11:15, 1:45, 4:15

2 127 HOURS 1:10, 3:30, 5:30, 7:40, 10:05

3 SANCTUM 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

4 THE MECHANIC 12:40, 2:50, 5:05, 7:10, 10:00

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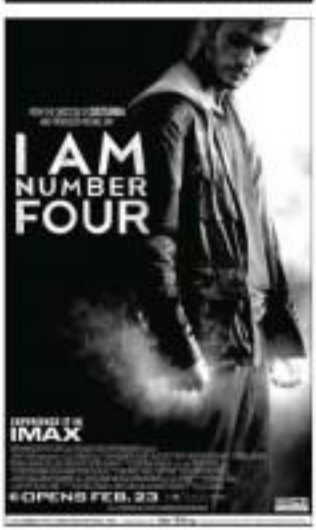

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ILOCOS NORTE

By Rina F Ando

HOW FAR would you go to entertain yourself from an exceedingly tight situation? For Aron Ralston (James Franco), the protagonist of Danny Boyle's true-to-life survival drama, "127 Hours," the question becomes more than just rhetorical when he gets stuck in a deep and narrow crevice after an 800-pound boulder crushes his right arm.

Why not call for help? It isn't so easy in this—because the area is a natural fortress surrounded by a maze of steep-walled canyons and hidden crevices.

In no time, Aron realizes the dire straits he's in—and it doesn't help that he hasn't told anyone about where he was going! With only a camcorder, a jug of water, a multipurpose knife, he has to think of a way to stand out of the crevice.

Bodily fluid

When his food and water finally run out, he ingests anything he gets his hands on—and even finds a certain bodily fluid convenient for "survival" drinking!

And, if he doesn't die strangle himself soon out of the claustrophobic mess he's in, Aron's now gangrenous appendage won't let the only piece of his anatomy that'll fit out either.

So, as a desperate act of survival, does applying a makeshift tourniquet, then carefully and deliberately "works his way" around the bones and ramifications of his wrist and forearm—with the help of his dull knife? How's that for surgical improvisation?

A less imaginative filmmaker would have been hard pressed to bring Aron's story to pulsating life. After all, how do you turn the story of a man pinned by a rock into a cinematically engaging full-length feature?

Cautionary adventure

But, Boyle, the creative mind behind "Slumdog Millionaire," "Shallow Grave," "28 Days Later" and "Trainspotting" fame, has impressively enlisted Irish editing, luscious photography and AR Rahman's catchy score to turn a potentially manic narrative into a compelling cautionary adventure.

Some of Boyle's innovative storytelling circles would have suffered had his lead actor been less skilled and charismatic than Franco—whose performance reminds viewers of Ryan Reynolds' less-talented portrayal in Rodrigo Cortes' recent man-in-a-coffin drama, "Buried").

Franco's academy award-nominated performance is an instructive piece of acting, because it's all about for a good portion of the movie, where his scene partners are—a video cam, a cold rock and a expanded limb!

AM/FM

'Heart to Heart' is a double-edged treat

By Ronald G. Mangubat

THE FIRST 30 minutes are timed just right. Gil Jimenez, the host of the daily program, "Heart to Heart" (2-4 p.m. on 105.9 FM), we wouldn't figure out what kind of host she was. She has an acerbic tongue, and she would approach callers ("Ayusin mo 'yang sagot mo, kung hindi, aayusin kita!").

Later, she would shift to her softer side and tell a problematic listener, "Kahit tayo, ulong maggago sa pagsagot kung problema, 'yon kabwe 'yong 'where your heart leads you.'" After getting exposed to both facets of her "split" personality, we decided that she was really a bit of both—a sharp-tongued program host with a big heart.

The advice show, "Heart to Heart," focuses on the listener's romantic troubles, and Baby Gil treats them in humorous, unlike brutal fashion. She told a woman who couldn't decide whether or not to give up her virginity for her boyfriend of two months, "Wag daw mo munang ibanigay!" Then, she warned callers about boyfriends who require intimacy as a sign of love. They aren't worth the risk!

Complexity

Most callers were in different situations. A woman was torn between her boyfriend and her female best friend who, months before, was in a romantic relationship with her current beau! Could the sensitive boyfriend for love? Sister Girl offered no specific advice, given the complexity of the caller's situation. Instead, the posed a series of questions to help the girl decide what to do next.

That's what sets Baby Gil apart from other advice-dispensing hosts. She knows when to use her bulge-and-claws without being offensive—as she did with a caller named Marlon, who dumped his girlfriend of two years

JASMIN. Sharp-tongued but big-hearted.

when he met another woman.

Dissatisfied with his current partner, Marlon said he wanted his first girlfriend back. After cracking some jokes related to the law of karma, Jasmin turned serious and said that a person doesn't fully appreciate a loved one's value until after he's lost her!

E-mail rgmgrimbi@gmail.com

Exciting ...

From page H6

Burlesque Lounge from 12mn. to transform it into a skyscraper complex.

After a big reveal scene, Cha tries to fire the decoy Stephen starter, "The Rite," a Colin O'Donoghue, who's cast in the pivotal role of a seminary student who reluctantly attends exorcism school at the Vatican.

Unorthodox price

There, he meets an unorthodox priest (Hopkins), who introduces him to the dark side of his faith. This is the young actor's bonus-film debut, but it looks like he's in the movies to stay.

So, too, is Bryce Dallas Howard, who's featured in Clint Eastwood's "Hereafter." Moviegoers may recognize her as the actress who played Victoria in "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse," but her role in "Hereafter" is more dramatically substantial.

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THE MECHANIC - R13 | 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
SANCTUM (IN 3D) - PG13 | 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
TANGLED - PG | 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20
TANGLED (IN 3D) - PG | 12:00, 2:40, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30

Finding spiritual bliss

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismonte

IT'S OFTEN said that money is the root of all evil. Not dangerous. Money used properly is a good thing.

Some people associate the best things in life as their pursuit of material pleasures. Simple things used to satisfy them lost, their joy evaporates and they become distrustful. Their judgment is clouded, and they lose their real friends.

Rewards

There are those who work hard without thinking of material rewards. The deeds of their labor are offered to the Lord by helping those in need and teaching others to serve Him. Inner joy satisfies them, so they achieve the highest goal of human existence: Spiritual bliss.

***

If a person is constantly thinking of ways to enrich himself, how does he distinguish himself from material hoarders? A discerning man cannot be rescued if he holds on to the rocks he has accumulated!

***

Like the passing of seasons, life on earth is temporary. It's best to channel a good portion of it to the pursuit of what's eternal—the joy of being in the presence of the Supreme Being. A sincere desire to achieve this spiritual bliss is a good beginning. The Lord will throw us the rest of the way.

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ABS-CBN

A close confident, goat borrowers and other boob-tube booboos

By Nestor G. Torre

MOST: What do you like most about your new girlfriend?

Guest: Hm-mm, it's—sabaho ahve!

(You make her sound like a fheroe!)

* * *

Most: I hear that you're close to the powers that be?

Guest: Not really. I'm just a close confidente.

(You say that in—confidently!)

* * *

Most: Can you tell us more about your movie's current ede?

Guest: Uh, it's such a big hit with our customers—everything is going like pweasen!

(—Except for the pices, right?)

* * *

Most: What do you want to say to the people you're screwing?

Guest: If they don't want to end up in court, they should respond to our charges in the earliest possible of time!

(That quickly, huh?)

* * *

Message

Most: What a your message for your friend after her award?

Guest: I just want to congratulate to her for more success!

(It really is the thought that counts...)

* * *

Most: As a dentist, what reminder do you have for parents of young children?

Guest: Just remember, mahalaga yanell gchuwel ng tamang toothache!

(...Ouch, that really hurts!)

* * *

Most: Is it true that you give certain tax-prepare-saved treatments?

Guest: Absolutely not. Anyone who comes, he will be treated like any ordinary tourist—as usual!

(...Except for dudes and his flying rig!)

* * *

Most: What has your investigation found out about opposition at your back?

Guest: It's so disturbing. There are so

e FRONT PAGE

Setting . . .

(From page B4

decisively support our own musical talents by watching a Filipino show this Valentine month.

For their part, our artists have the responsibility of not taking our support for granted, and giving us the best performances of their lives.

—Pero no hangat? Great...Mahal mon.

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